



Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 15, Issue 29

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Phyllis Weekes Photography

38-Acre Matheson Meadows Under Land Alliance Management

Western Long Island is not a place one would expect to find vast expanses of meadow habitat, so the passage up Fort Hill Drive in Lloyd Neck, which bisects Matheson Meadows, is an unexpected pleasure. In 1968, Mrs. Anna Matheson Wood, founder and honorary member of the Three Harbors Garden Club, conveyed the meadows to The Nature Conservancy. A bronze plaque is left to show that the property is a gift from Mrs. Wood in memory of her father, William John Matheson, a scientist and conservationist who acquired the estate in 1900. Prior to 1968, the meadows were farmed for hay and agricultural crops. Horses grazed there until the 1970's.

Perhaps Mrs. J. Hamilton Coulter said it best many decades ago, in recognition of Anna Matheson Wood's decision to permanently protect a 38-acre tract of her property:

Here, only forty-five miles from one of the largest and most complex cities in the world, is the visible and tangible assurance that meadows may be allowed to exist, filled with tall and tawny grasses, horizoned with oak and elm, and patterned with ancient apple trees. Beauty

(Continued on p. 3)



Dear Friends of the Land Alliance,

Our organization is so fortunate to be supported by each and every one of you. After all of these years, the thing I value most about the Land Alliance's impact is our ability to galvanize many people around a single issue – land conservation! When you renew your membership at \$50 per year or make a gift to support the acquisition of additional conservation-worthy land, your collective support makes a meaningful difference. The power of many, when calculated as a whole, makes all the difference in protecting the natural resources of our community.

My husband and I are supportive of many local organizations, but what I think the Land Alliance does best is to maximize our individual contributions to deliver results at scale. For example, five hundred \$100-dollar contributions equate to \$500,000. That sum enables us to actually purchase environmentally significant land and protect it for the benefit of our community. Similarly, one hundred \$100 contributions enable us to expand our outreach to include more schools in our Long Island Water Education Program. That program teaches fourth graders across Long Island about the source of our drinking water and how important the actions we take every day are to protecting this precious resource. To date, we have reached 6,000+ students in 24 schools across Long Island in hopes of creating the next generation of conservationists.

Activism and engagement really matter as we look to protect the future of our world. According to a report by the United Nations, humans are transforming the Earth's natural landscapes so dramatically that as many as one million plant and animal species are now at risk of extinction. That risk poses a dire threat to ecosystems that people all over the world depend on for their survival.

The study's conclusions were stark. In most major land habitats, from the savannas of Africa to the rain forests of South America, the average abundance of native plant and animal life has fallen by 20 percent or more. Most of this decline over the past century is due to human activities required to accommodate a growing population.

At the same time, a new threat has emerged. Global warming, which has been a major cause of plant and animal decline, is pushing a growing number of species north for survival. Biodiversity loss is expected to accelerate through 2050 unless countries and, yes, communities like ours step up our conservation efforts. For a long time, people thought about protecting biodiversity as saving nature for its own sake but today we better understand that protecting biodiversity protects us – our water, our food, our economy and our ability to have a sustainable future.

Did you know that the decline of wild bees and other insects that help pollinate fruits and vegetables is putting up to \$577 billion in annual crop production at risk? This issue of *Conservation News* features the importance of meadows and grasslands, ecosystems that support biodiversity and increased pollination, and the looming threat of nitrogen pollution, which must be abated to protect our water resources.

While we in western Long Island cannot solve the problems of the world alone, there are meaningful things each of us can do to protect the future of our world. It is a documented fact that protecting land is a critical part of the solution to protecting our world. Across the world, nations have protected more than 15 percent of the world's land and seven percent of its oceans by setting up nature preserves and wilderness areas. But there is much more to be done!

Thank you for being a partner in the conservation of local lands that significantly impact the future of both our community and our world.

Yours in conservation,

Lisa W. Ott, President and CEO

(Continued from pg. 1)

is not only in the eye of the beholder; this landscape is a rare and lovely sight, but it is also a meaningful expression of a woman's wise and generous wish to let Nature take its course. It is a permanent sanctuary where birds may come and go and return in confidence of safety and sustenance, where trees may endure for their own allotted time, and where small creatures of the woods and fields may work out their unmolested destinies. Ecologists and ornithologists will have opportunities to study a natural area, untouched by the aggressions of bulldozer and builder.

Mrs. Coulter's exquisite tribute celebrates not only Matheson Meadows but many of the special places we are recognizing in this issue of *Conservation News*.

Today, the meadows are filled with a variety of grasses, wildflowers, birds and trees that make this property unique. This year the Land Alliance has taken on their stewardship and is beginning to get to know them a little better by conducting plot surveys to identify vegetation species and connecting with partners to find out what bird species are inhabiting the property these days.

We are continuing to have the meadows mowed annually, in large part thanks to the Friends of Matheson Meadows, led by Paul and Robin Vermynen. They, for many years have raised funds to cover the notso insignificant cost of mowing such a large parcel. We are very grateful to the Vermynens for taking on this responsibility for so many years and for introducing us to the neighbors so we can carry on this important work.

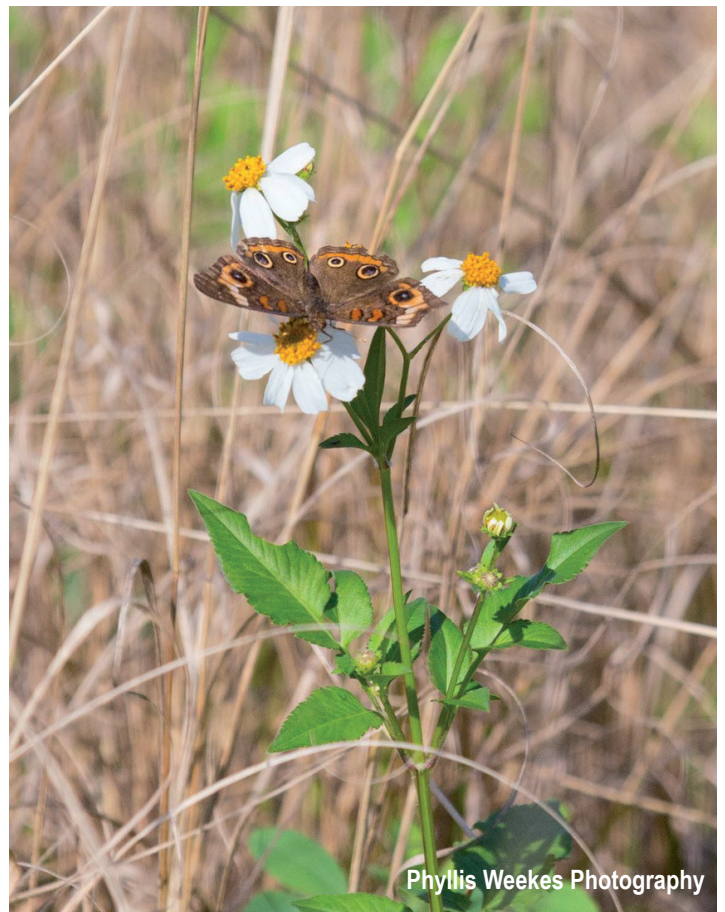
Already this year, with the support of a generous neighbor, we've completed the initial mowing and path clearing. We have begun to remove invasive plants like the highly invasive Chinese silver grass, which will be replaced by a native grass species. We also hope to build a new path that provides better access for viewing bird boxes and expands options for walking.

Lastly, we have scheduled a September 29th bird walk, to be led by Stella Miller and Marty Wenz, open to the general public by advance registration. To register, visit our website at www.northshorelandalliance.org/events.

Thank you to Matheson Meadows Donors

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Bosch
Mr. and Mrs. Dustin Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Vermynen

list in formation



Phyllis Weekes Photography

Environmental Importance of Meadows



Grasslands and meadows were once a substantial part of Long Island's landscape. That's where places like East Meadow, Sunken Meadow and the Hempstead Plains got their names. Although there are many known benefits to the preservation of meadows, there has been a constant decrease since the First and Second World Wars as many have now been developed or converted to farmland or recreational areas.

A meadows is habitat that is vegetated primarily by grasses and other non woody plants, including wildflowers, largely free of trees and large shrubs. Meadows provide important shelter for animals, especially those that cannot find refuge in a forest, such as songbirds, rabbits and other small mammals. They also play a role in breeding for some wildlife, such as woodcocks who use meadows and grasslands to display for courtship. In addition, they provide a food source for many critters as well as protection from predators, especially for small mammals and white-tailed deer fawns.

Meadows are critical for insects and other pollinators. Monarch butterflies, for example, lay their eggs on

milkweed, commonly found in meadows (and the only food source their caterpillars will consume). The spicebush swallowtail butterfly relies on common meadow species for survival. When meadows vanish, so do pollinators, as well as other insects, and animals that eat insects, and the birds and bats that eat them.

Meadows help recharge the sole source aquifer from which Long Islanders' drinking water comes by absorbing water through the soil. The quality and quantity of the water we drink depends on the land and its ability to absorb moisture from rain and snow. They are also critical to absorbing pollutants before they reach our beaches and bays.

Meadows play an important role in our ecosystems, but they are becoming increasingly rare across Long Island. It is crucial that we continue to protect these valuable habitats before they disappear.

Over the last few years, the Land Alliance has been involved in restoring and managing a number of local meadows, some of which include:

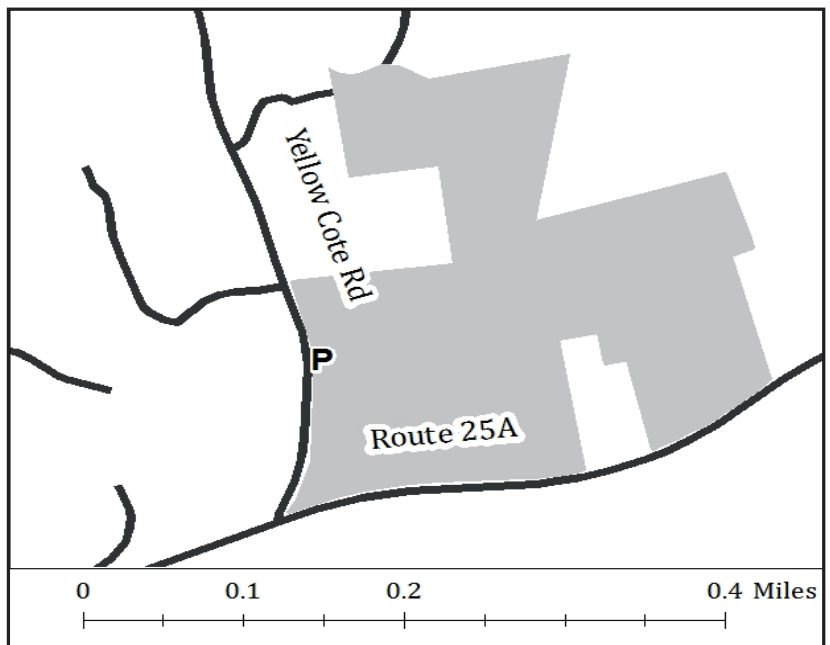
Red Cote Preserve, Yellow Cote Road, Oyster Bay Cove

Red Cote contains a mixture of woodlands and meadows, with trails both in the woodland area and circling the meadows' edges. During late summer and early fall, Red Cote's two meadows are the centers of activity as the blooming wildflowers attract an array of pollinators. Common species such as butterfly milkweed, goldenrod and joe pye weed can be found in abundance throughout. They attract monarch butterflies, bumblebees and swallowtail butterflies. The meadows are also home to many songbirds, including eastern bluebirds (official bird of New York State), tree swallows and a variety of sparrows.

Red Cote's meadows get mowed once a year, in late winter, to optimize habitat. Mowing at this time of year allows the seeds and stalks of fall-blooming wildflowers to remain to provide food and refuge for songbirds and small mammals almost until spring arrives. We do not mow in the late spring when box turtles, ground nesting birds and other wildlife are sheltering their young.



umbrella magnolia

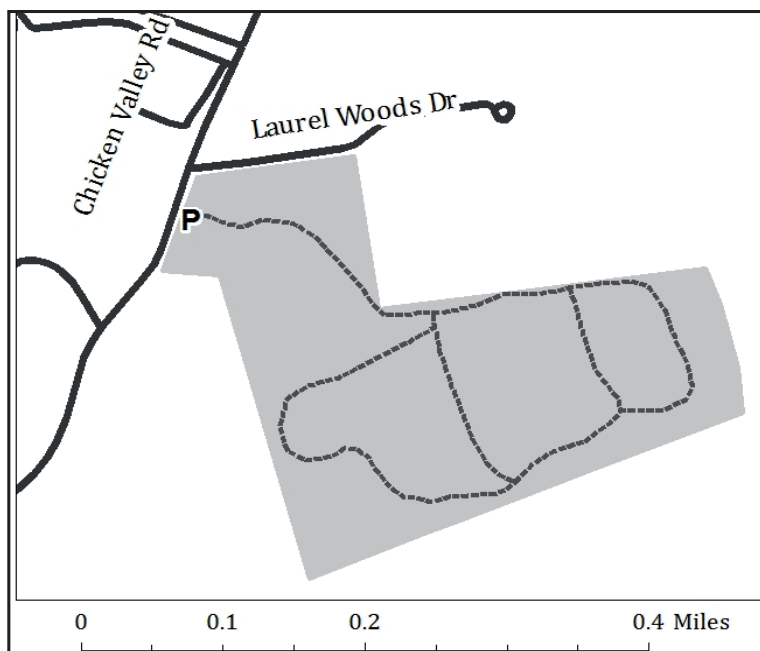




Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve Chicken Valley Road, Upper Brookville

In the early 1900s, Iselin contained two farm fields owned by the Youngs family. Farming ceased on the first field in the 1960s because of lack of irrigation and the woodland evolved through normal plant succession. The second field, now Iselin's meadow, is mowed once a year in late winter to allow for optimal native plant growth and protection of wildlife habitat. Periodic mowing allows for native plant seeds, already in the ground from the previous year, to germinate and rebound for the year to come. An example of such a native plant is the ragged fringed orchid, a species that has been identified near the meadow's edge.

Many native plants found in this meadow are essential for the survival of wildlife. For instance, box turtles eat mayapple fruits and spread their seeds. Additionally, asters, goldenrods and milkweeds are found throughout and support butterfly reproduction and pollination. Tree swallows have also been spotted in here. They breed in fields and nest in tree cavities, like ones that are commonly made by woodpeckers. This is an ecosystem intact, thanks to the preservation of this magical place.



Black-capped Chickadee

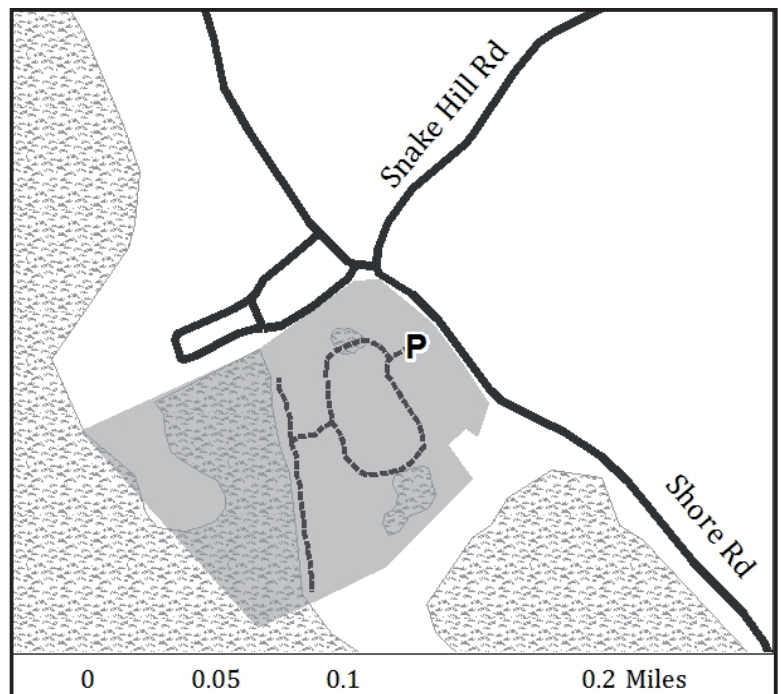
Shore Road Sanctuary

Shore Road, Cold Spring Harbor

The Land Alliance acquired this eight-acre waterfront parcel from ExxonMobil in 2012. Following remediation of the property, Exxon in 2011 seeded four upland acres with native warm-season grasses, laying the foundation for what visitors take in today. In accordance with our habitat restoration plan, completed by GEI Consultants, maritime and tall grassland are punctuated with wet meadow areas of varying size. We over-seeded the site with grasses and some wildflowers. And in fall 2016, a small variety of native shrubs was added at the edges of the wet meadows to begin to establish maritime shrubland habitat. The project, when completed, will result in public access for passive use to a stunningly beautiful section of Long Island, critical wildlife habitat, preservation of scenic views, steps toward addressing sea level rise and protection of both groundwater and the Harbor. The project prevented development that can negatively impact these resources. The property, visited regularly by local residents (including students participating in our Long Island Water Education Program) serves as the quintessential outdoor classroom for young and old. A looped trail traverses the property and accesses a small beach.



pollinator garden



If you are in a meadow mood, here is a small sampling of other meadows and grasslands worth a visit.

Carpenter Farm Park, Old Field Road, Greenlawn – This beautiful 12.4-acre Town of Huntington property, purchased in 2013, has been undergoing a transformation led by local resident Julie Sullivan. She has been working with the Town and volunteers to remove invasive plants by hand and mechanical methods and plant native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. In 2018 a 2000-square-foot monarch butterfly garden was installed. It is now bordered by a recently planted 800-square-foot native shrub hedgerow donated by Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society.

Caumsett State Park, Lloyd Harbor Road, Lloyd Neck - Launched in 2011 by the Caumsett Foundation and the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, this 30-acre grassland restoration is a gem. The Baltimore checkerspot butterfly population that occurs within the project site is the only known breeding population on Long Island. This butterfly was observed in the Caumsett restoration area during the summer of 2009.

Hempstead Plains, Nassau Community College Campus, Garden City – 19 prairie acres of what once was 40,000 acres next to Nassau Coliseum remain and are capably stewarded by the Friends of Hempstead Plains. The property supports a diversity of rare plants, among them the emblematic sandplain gerardia. Visit the Friends' inviting education center and learn more about an additional 26 acres being restored.



Restoring Life to a Meadow



The Land Alliance acquired the Humes property in Mill Neck on July 10, 2015. The property completes one of the most significant open space corridors on Long Island's north shore, totaling 150 contiguous acres in the heart of the Beaver Brook watershed. Protection of corridors like Beaver Brook is critically important in the face of climate change, which, according to a recent Audubon report, is threatening nearly half of North America's bird species by shrinking their current range.

The centerpiece of the Humes property's open area is a 4.5-acre meadow that was a scary place a few short years ago. Teeming with porcelain-berry (and many other weeds which revealed themselves later), the "meadow", with very few exceptions, had not been maintained for decades, instead serving as a dumping ground for logs and rubbish. As a result, invasive vines, shrubs and forbs had proliferated unchecked when, in 2016, we attempted some early steps toward its restoration; we launched more intensive efforts last year. Our long-term objective is to restore the site to a meadow that will support a rich biodiversity of native plants and wildlife. Over 100 bird species have been documented at the property over the last year, but the abundance of invasive vegetation in the meadow is limiting its value to birds and other wildlife. The Humes property has been included for a number of years in the Christmas Bird Count and bird walks led by Audubon, Scott Weidensaul and others due to its reputation as a hidden gem of a birding hotspot. Vegetation surveys have been carried out by our O'Neil Stewards since 2016; this data will serve as a measure of conversion from invasive plants to natives and help inform the success of our efforts to transition it into thriving habitat.

Following our acquisition of the property, we began hand clearing areas where logs and trash had been dumped, mowed a one-acre section, had a small crew of goats graze another section and cut porcelain-berry vines in the grazed area. But we realized we needed to take much more substantial steps and last year mowed 3.5 acres of

mostly invasive vegetation and cleared rubbish debris. About half of this area was covered in mile-a-minute weed, which was mowed again in early summer. The balance of the cleared area was mowed in late summer, prior to an onsite consultation with Larry Weaner Associates, with whom we continue to work to shape an adaptive management strategy. We anticipate the project area will be ready for seeding native warm-season grasses in fall 2019. Grasses will provide coverage that will help with combating invasive plants as we move toward enhancing habitat with wildflowers in 2020/21.

In addition to Larry Weaner Associates, we are also grateful for support and guidance from:

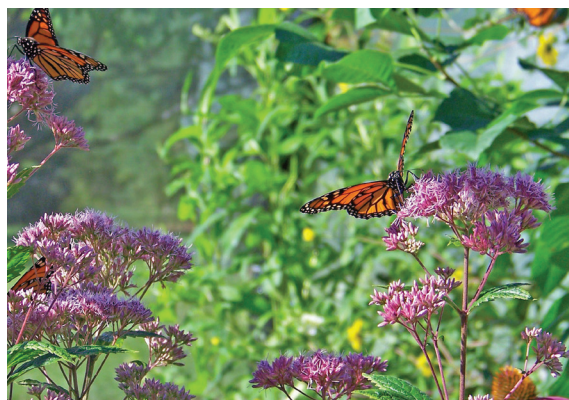
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sue Feustel, Al and Lois Lindberg,
Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District, Polly Weigand, Long Island Native Plant Initiative

You, Too, Can Have a Meadow



Have you thought about dedicating a sunny portion of your lawn to the growth of native grasses and wildflowers? You'll spend less time mowing, while adding environmental significance and natural beauty to your landscape. After your meadow grows in, you'll delight in the many visitors that follow from different species of birds and insects, to butterflies, especially the once-endangered monarch. During their stay your garden, and those of your neighbors, will benefit through pollination and an uptick in beneficial insects.

With the growing availability of plants native to Long Island and our increased knowledge about the services they provide to wildlife and all of us, justification for planting anything but native plants diminishes. Plant non-cultivars (or straight species, not followed by the name) to best benefit habitat and wildlife. We provide here a small sampling (there are many others!!) of native plants to consider (depending on soil, topography and other conditions) for your garden or your future meadow.



Native Plant List

Wildflowers

Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
 Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
 Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
 Common New York Aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*)
 Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*)
 Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)
 Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
 Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
 Round-headed Bushclover (*Lespedeza capitata*)
 Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)
 Smooth Aster (*Symphyotrichum leave*)
 Spotted Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)
 Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Grasses

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
 Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
 Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
 Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
 Purple Top (*Tridens flavus*)
 Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Many of these species can be observed at the newly redesigned Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center in Oyster Bay Cove, where 21,000 native plants have been installed this spring!

Some excellent sources for native plants

Long Island Native Plant Initiative and its native plant sale – the best!

The plants sold by LINPI are not only native to but also genetically appropriate (ecotypic) for Long Island. Make sure to support its fall 2019 plant sale. www.linpi.org

NYC Department of Parks Natural Resources Group's Greenbelt Native Plant Center

Availability of plants for sale to general public may be somewhat limited but DEFINITELY worth looking into. www.nycgovparks.org/greening/greenbelt-native-plant-center/products

Long Island Natives: longislandnatives.com

Glover Perennials: gloverperennials.com

If your organization hosts a native plant sale, please let us know and we will add you to our list.

The Return of the Monarch



Since the late 1990s, monarch butterfly populations have been in a steep decline due to habitat loss, increased use of herbicides and pesticides and climate change. But, for the first time in 12 years, eastern monarch butterfly populations are up significantly! According to the World Wildlife Fund in Mexico, the overwintering populations of monarchs are at their highest numbers since 2007. This winter, the population saw a 144 percent increase from the previous winter. Researchers believe favorable weather during the spring and summer breeding season and fall migration period played a role in the increase.

Monarch butterflies have become the iconic pollinator species and are popular with nature lovers because of their grace and vibrant color. They are among the largest butterflies in North America, with wing spans of up to five inches. Interestingly, monarch butterflies that return in the spring from wintering in the tropics do not make it back to their final destinations. Instead, they stop along the way and breed. The offspring then continue the journey north. Their annual flight from Long Island to Central Mexico and back is inspiring, taking at least five generations to complete.

As adults, monarchs drink nectar from a wide variety of flowers but lay their eggs only on milkweed. Similarly, other butterfly species are experiencing population declines due to habitat loss and those butterflies too need specific host plants. For example, the eastern tailed-blue relies on round-headed bush clover, American ladies dine on pearly everlasting and pearl crescent butterflies need New England asters.

Thank you to all who heeded the call and planted varieties of milkweed in your garden over the last few years in support of the plight of the monarch butterfly. While this species' circumstances seem to have improved, we must remain diligent because the threat has not been removed.

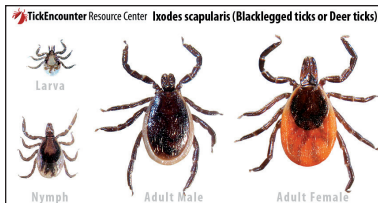
Please continue to help the Monarchs by:

- Planting common milkweed, swamp milkweed and butterfly milkweed in your gardens
- Reducing pesticide and herbicide use
- Encouraging others to plant milkweed!

If you would like to follow the Monarch migration, visit www.maps.journeynorth.org/map

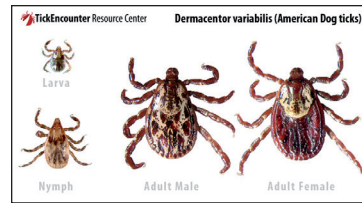
Tick Talk, Tick Talk - How to Live in a World with Ticks

As the spring season arrives, many people head outdoors – which is a good thing! Unfortunately, and mostly due to climate change, ticks are there waiting for us in greater numbers than ever before. When walking through woods, underbrush, tall grasses or weeds, on your own property or in Land Alliance preserves, the chance of picking up an unwelcome hanger-on rises. And things are not going to get better any time soon. As climate change progresses, we are experiencing longer, warmer summers and shorter, milder winters which ensure the survival and proliferation of ticks.



The three most common ticks on Long Island are deer tick, American dog tick and lone star tick. Deer ticks, the most commonly found, are transported by white-footed mice and deer. As suburban development has replaced natural habitat such as forests, deer and mice have no other choice but to join us where we now live.

Ticks feed on LI's white-footed mice; 90 percent of these mice carry Lyme, other bacteria and parasites. Development destroys fox, raptor and other mouse predator habitat, so more mice survive to host ticks.



For identification purposes, images are larger than actual size.

What can we do to de-tick?

Many people are embracing natural solutions like keeping chickens, bats, and other predators. Did you know that one opossum can vacuum 5,000 ticks in one week with its mouth? If a pet opossum is not part of your plan or if your village does not allow chickens or guinea hens, there are some simple things we all can do to avoid ticks, including the following:

1. Avoid wooded and brush areas with high grass and leaf litter. Walk in the center of trails.
2. Apply insect repellents. Experts recommend repellents containing 20 percent or more DEET be applied to clothing and skin. Use products that contain permethrin on clothing.
3. Wear light colored clothing and tuck pants into boots or socks and shirt into pants. Keep long hair tied back.
4. Check clothing constantly while working or walking in wooded areas.
5. Check yourself before leaving the area and again when you get home. Tumble dry on high heat clothing worn outside for at least 10 minutes to kill ticks.
6. And, if you are bitten by a tick and a bullseye-shaped redness ensues, see your doctor.

Please don't let the fear of ticks keep you from spending precious time in nature.

Humes Property Update

When protecting important natural areas land trusts are also protecting parts of history. The significance of the history can range from a simple record of land ownership to detailed accounts of human history and land use. The Humes property in Mill Neck illustrates the latter.

Given both the important cultural and natural resources found on the Humes property and complexity of the designed and built environments, the Land Alliance is making every effort to carefully assess and plan for proper stewardship and management.

Last year, thanks to some timely and generous grants, the Land Alliance was able to begin efforts to do just that. Through the generous support of the Gerry Charitable Trust, the Land Alliance

was able to work with Gregory Dietrich, a Historic Preservation Consultant, to conduct a Cultural Resource Inventory (CRI). This involved research into the history, architecture and significance of the property, structures and individuals who shaped the site as well as documentation of the current structures. The CRI confirmed that the original Schmidlapp estate was 75 acres and encompassed what is now part of Shu Swamp preserve.

As a land trust, understanding and documenting the Humes landscape is equally important. Through the Gerry grant, plus a grant from the Preservation League of New York State (funded thorough the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation), we were able to hire Patricia O'Donnell of Heritage Landscapes Preservation Planners

to conduct a Historic Landscape Survey. It focused on the natural and designed landscapes.

With both a well-documented past and baseline of existing conditions, the Land Alliance is prepared to focus on our future goal of opening Humes to the public as a passive use preserve in 2020.

Our next step will be to develop an historic site master plan. This has just been made possible through an additional grant from the Gerry Foundation (see pg. 32). In addition to supporting the master plan, the Gerry Charitable Trust has provided funding to stabilize the Tavern House (which is critical after this rainy spring).

Thank you, Gerry Charitable Trust!



Stroll Garden Events

Our second full season of open hours at the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden is underway, having started with, of course, a series of wet May days. Opening day, May 4, however, dried out in the afternoon and dozens of Long Islanders ventured in for a peaceful stroll on pathways freshly covered in mulch. In the past new mulch has been applied annually, but it had been a few years and the change was very noticeable! Visitors sampled tasty Japanese snacks. Azaleas were beginning to bloom. Best of all, the sounds produced by Grand Master Shakuhachi player Daniel Nyohaku Soergel, accompanied by his student Chester Ong, were mesmerizing. We are fortunate to have Daniel returning monthly.

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

Hours of Operation for 2019: Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about volunteering and our events, please call the Land Alliance at (516) 922-1028.



Photo Credit: Sarane Ross

2019 Programs:

**Saturdays: June 8th, July 13th,
August 10th, September 14th and October 12th
from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Shakuhachi program with Daniel Soergel

Saturday, June 8th, 10:00 a.m.

The Principles of Ikebana - Demonstration with
Linda McLaughlin, trained in the O'Hara School
of Ikebana in Tokyo. Registration required.

Saturday, June 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

Japanese Tea Ceremony Demonstration
with Marybeth Welch and Greg Succop
of the Urasenke Chanoyu Society of New York.
For Friends of the Stroll Garden members only.
Registration required.

Saturday, July 13th, 3:00 p.m.

Karen De Mauro, Storyteller and Director of the
Center for Nature Writing at Seatuck Environmental
Center, will lead us through the Garden while telling
Japanese stories and inspiring anecdotes, and lead a
group Haiku gathering with reflective moments.
Registration required.

Sunday, September 22nd, 11:00 a.m.

Bamboo in Northeastern Landscapes Walk with
Michael Veracka/SUNY Farmingdale.
Registration required.

November 2nd and 3rd

Closing Weekend

Bad Bugs Moving North

According to the US EPA, insect outbreaks often defoliate, weaken and kill trees. For example, by 2007, pine beetles had damaged more than 650,000 acres of forest in Colorado and spruce beetles had damaged more than 3.7 million acres in southern Alaska and western Canada. The hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive species that is sensitive to cold weather and destroys Eastern hemlock, will likely extend its habitat north as the climate warms. A lack of natural controls, such as predators or pathogens, as well as inadequate defenses in trees, can allow insects to spread. Climate change could contribute to an increase in the severity of future insect outbreaks.

An invasive species is one that is not native to a specific location and that tends to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, economy or human health. Early detection can go a long way in preventing outbreaks. If you believe you have any of the following species in your backyard, please notify the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at (631)444-0350. We must all do our part to protect our forests.



Emerald Ash Borer - The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia that infests and kills North American ash species including green, white, black and blue ash. The adult beetle has a shiny emerald green body with a coppery red or purple abdomen. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Signs of infection in the tree canopy include dieback, yellowing and browning of leaves.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - The hemlock woolly adelgid, or HWA, is an invasive, aphid-like insect that attacks North American hemlocks. HWA are very small (1.5 mm) and often hard to see, but they can be easily identified by the white woolly masses sheltering their eggs on the underside of branches at the base of the needles. Signs of infection include white woolly masses, needle loss and branch dieback, and gray-tinted foliage damage to needles and branches.



Spotted Lanternfly - SLF is an invasive pest from Asia that primarily feeds on tree of heaven but can also feed on a wide variety of plants such as grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, fruit trees and others. Adults and nymphs use their sucking mouthparts to feed on the sap of more than 70 plant species. This feeding stresses plants, making them vulnerable to disease and attacks from other insects.



Gypsy Moth - The gypsy moth is a non-native insect from France. Its caterpillar eats the leaves of a large variety of trees such as oak, maple, apple, crabapple, aspen, willow, birch, mountain ash, pine, spruce and more. Gypsy moth caterpillars have five pairs of raised blue spots followed by six pairs of raised red spots along their back. Female moths are white with brown markings. Males are brownish.



Southern Pine Beetle - Southern pine beetle, or SPB, is a bark beetle that infests pine trees. SPB is red brown to black in color. Infested trees in New York were found in October 2014 in Suffolk County on Long Island. Signs of an infestation include popcorn-shaped clumps of resin on the bark, shotgun patterned holes in the bark, s-shaped tunnels under the bark and reddish-brown needles.

Government Updates



FEDERAL Land and Water Conservation Fund Update

On March 12th, after decades of budget battles, expirations and extensions, an historic victory for public lands occurred. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was permanently reauthorized as part of a sweeping public lands package referred to as the Dingell Act. It was named after conservation champion and the House's longest serving member, John Dingell. The legislation, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House (363-62) and in the Senate (92-8) a month earlier, was signed into law by President Trump. Unfortunately, the permanent reauthorization did not include funding for the program.

LWCF is America's most important conservation program responsible for protecting parks, wildlife

refuges and recreational areas at State, Federal and local levels. Recent LWCF expenditures in our community include the restoration of Sagamore Hill and improvements at Planting Fields Arboretum, to name a couple. For 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities and historic preservation of our nation's most iconic landmarks in all fifty states. LWCF was originally designed as a mechanism for polluters to give back for the resources from which they have taken. Its funds are generated from a small portion of offshore oil and gas royalty payments.

In April, a bipartisan coalition in the Senate proposed full funding for LWCF at its original level of \$900 million. In May, the House Interior and Environmental Appropriations subcommittee proposed funding at \$524 million, the highest level of funding since 2003. While budgets are yet to be reconciled, every dollar counts as America's national parks look at their highest maintenance backlog in history. To be continued...





STATE

Keep the Bill in the Bunker

Whether you are a golf enthusiast or view the game as a good walk spoiled, it is difficult to argue with the open space groundwater recharge, habitat and scenic beauty that golf courses provide. Along with preserved land, golf courses make up the last significant open spaces on Long Island. Now those vast swaths of green space are under threat. State Assembly bill A6444 authored by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) and State Senate bill S4420 sponsored by Sen. David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester), would allow municipalities to assess golf courses on “highest and best use” rather than “current use.”

The quest to generate new property tax revenue has the potential for collateral damage. It is estimated by Charles Dorn, President of the New York State Club Association, that the proposed legislation could affect as many as 500 public/semipublic and 250 private clubs throughout New York State. In Nassau County alone, golf courses account for over 7,000 acres of predominantly green space. That is more than 17 times the size of Planting Fields Arboretum (409 acres). Opening the doors to changes in the tax code could have devastating effects. Charles Dorn stated, “We had an independent tax appraiser look at two clubs and he projected taxes would at least quadruple and there could be situations where taxes would increase tenfold.” He continued to say, his organization believes a third of private clubs would close in one to five years. The mere possibility that golf courses could be forced to close should alarm communities.

The potential tax burden placed on golf courses has economic and environmental risk. Long Island is particularly susceptible to changes in land use as our drinking water comes from an already strained sole source aquifer. We simply cannot afford to lose

more open space. Golf courses provide the expansive open turf and soil to filter and recharge our aquifer. Well managed golf course turf harbors earthworms that create underground tunnels enhancing rainwater percolation and filtration. Additionally, microorganisms found in the turf digest pollutants and assist in cleansing rainwater. They are one of our last defenses in managing stormwater runoff, the hazardous by product of suburban sprawl that carries pollutants into streams and open water. It is impossible to argue against the benefits of open green space. From the water we drink to the air we breathe they are important. 2,000 square feet of turf, trees and shrubs generate enough oxygen for one person for one year. Golf courses also contribute meaningfully to landscape level conservation, providing habitat for plant and animal species and corridors between protected areas.

Golf courses are unsung assets in conservation. Sometimes vilified, they do hold value as a partner in preserving our natural resources. Every effort should be made to mitigate the prospect of their closure and vulnerability to development. Unfortunately, the Land Alliance does not have the capacity to purchase and preserve all the golf courses that may be forced to close should they succumb to excessive taxation. Therefore, it is paramount that North Shore communities stay abreast of the bill’s current status and voice their concerns about the detrimental impact of such legislation.



What We Can Do To Protect Our Water Now

A Follow-Up To The Panel Discussion: The State of Long Island's Water



Sarah Meyland, NYIT, Justin Jobin, Suffolk County and Kevin McDonald, TNC

Attendees at The State of Long Island's Water panel discussion on April 24th, an event we co-hosted with the North Country Garden Club and The Nature Conservancy, learned that Long Island's ground and surface water resources are contaminated. The sources of the contaminants are excess nitrogen from human septic systems, fertilizers and carcinogenic manmade chemicals such as 1,4-Dioxane.

"We treat our aquifer like a dump site," said Sarah J. Meyland, one of the four panelists that presented that evening. She is a Water Specialist and Associate Professor at New York Institute of Technology. Fish and shellfish species are dying all over Long Island, drinking water is severely impaired, beaches are closing due to bacteria-causing toxic algal blooms and the list goes on. Each year, the problem is getting worse.

Thank you to all the people who attended this important discussion – there were nearly 150 people there including State Senator James Gaughran (District 5) and State Assemblyman Steve Englebright (Assembly

District 4). Experts discussed a variety of topics ranging from nitrogen loading to the condition of North Shore bays and harbors to the status of our local drinking water and the roles citizens and government can play in reducing nitrogen loading.

"Water quality is one of the most important if not the most important issue, Long Island faces today," said Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President & CEO. "Protecting land is critical to protecting Long Island's drinking and surface waters. If we all work together, we can help reverse the problem."

The takeaway from the evening was that Long Island faces a huge water quality problem. What can we do to fix it? Our water providers cannot tackle these problems alone. It is up to each of us to do our part. The Land Alliance has utilized a number of resources and compiled a list, many being points addressed at the panel discussion, of what people can do now to help protect Long Island's precious water resources.

What Can You Do!

- **Have your septic system or cesspool routinely pumped** to prevent clogging and overflowing. 60-70 percent of the nitrogen entering our water is from septic systems or cesspools. If you are building a new home or your septic system needs to be replaced, consider new nitrogen reducing technologies. For more information on reducing nitrogen loading visit www.reclaimourwater.info.
- If you're using lawn fertilizers, **use organic ones with slow-release nitrogen**. Once nitrogen from fertilizers passes the root zone where plants absorb it as food, it continues to seep further into the ground until it reaches our aquifer. Up to 30 percent of nitrogen from fertilizer makes its way into our groundwater. Consider organic slow-release fertilizers like Espoma Organic Lawn Food, which may be purchased from many local garden centers.
- **Do not purchase or use products containing 1,4-Dioxane**, a likely carcinogen found in household, personal care and baby products. According to the Environmental Working Group, 1,4-Dioxane can be found in up to 46 percent of personal care products tested. For a list of products containing 1,4-Dioxane visit <https://bit.ly/2V6zwlR>. If you would like to check whether a product contains it and it is not on the provided list, visit the EWG's website www.ewg.org.
- **Don't flush over-the-counter or prescription medications down the toilet or drain**. These pharmaceuticals, even in small amounts, can pollute our drinking water and negatively affect aquatic wildlife, especially fish populations. Check with your local pharmacy or police station to see whether pharmaceutical drop boxes are available - the Glen Cove Police Department and the Greenvale Pharmacy & Homecare store have them.
- If you choose to spray your property for ticks, mosquitos or other insects, **consider using all-natural or organic products** that are safer for you and our aquifer such as garlic barrier for your lawn and Osana soap for your skin. Many insect repellents contain toxic chemicals such as DEET.
- **Watering your lawn every day is unnecessary** according to experts. Ensuring sufficient water quantity is an important part of protecting our water source. The Sustainability Institute at Molloy College recommends watering infrequently, but deeply. Think about installing a water gauge on your sprinkler system that waters only when the ground is dry. For more information on healthy watering, visit Molloy College's website page on watering <https://bit.ly/2Wtjtvf>.
- **Plant native plants and trees** on your property. Not only do native plantings protect the genetic integrity of Long Island, they also require less water and nitrogen fertilizer once established. Two great sources for Long Island native plants are the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (www.linpi.org) and Long Island Natives (www.longislandnatives.com).



Valuing Water

An Editorial by guest author Kevin McDonald
Conservation Project Director for Public Lands at The Nature Conservancy

Losing something we rely on, but perhaps take for granted, quickly brings us to appreciate its value. In Suffolk County, many residents now realize that our clean water—both the water we drink and the water surrounding us in bays and ponds—is in jeopardy. The lack of crabs in our ponds, the dearth of eelgrass and shellfish in our bays and the increasing concerns about the purity of the source of our drinking water all stem from the same problem: nitrogen pollution from sewage, fertilizer and other sources.

Fortunately, New York State, Suffolk County and various East End towns are responding to the crisis by promoting the use of nitrogen-reducing septic systems, with rebate programs and phase-outs of old cesspools that leach directly into our waters. But we also know that solving the problem goes beyond new technology:

how will we pay for and use water to better reflect its value to people and nature?

Long Island's way of managing water—with water delivery being the responsibility of one set of entities, and treatment after use being the responsibility of other entities—goes back nearly 100 years. In those days, there were fewer people on Long Island using less water. We would have a very different system—and better outcomes—if the water that each of us uses had to be returned to its original source in the environment clean enough so that it could be used again without worry.

If that sounds far-fetched, it's not. A team of IBM analysts looked at Suffolk's water pollution issues and water management system two years ago, and

recommended a new business model in which the full cost of returning clean water to the environment after use by consumers would be incorporated into the price of obtaining water from its source. (On Long Island that's in the ground under our feet!) The revenue would be put into a "locked box dedicated fund" to help implement strategies to reduce pollution and ensure safe waters. In this manner, users of water would be paying to return clean water to our natural aquifer and groundwater systems, rather than robbing future generations of their heritage through ever-increasing water pollution.

Currently, an average Suffolk resident pays about \$200 per year for the tap water they use in their homes; that's less than half of what Nassau County residents pay, and one-third of what New York City residents pay. Almost 75% of Suffolk residents don't pay sewer fees, while NYC and Nassau residents do. What happens when something is so cheap, or nearly free? It's taken for granted and exploited rather than properly stewarded. On the East End, where as many as 30,000 residences use private wells, this issue is even more complicated.

We do appreciate the value of clean water in some ways more easily than in others. A water view from a home clearly adds value to that residence. Stony Brook economists have found that property values are higher within 1,000 meters of a clean water body and those values drop as that water becomes polluted. Indeed, economists in Florida documented a huge drop in real estate values when harmful algae blooms clogged popular water bodies last year. We are just starting to ask, "what would we do differently and what would Long Island look like if it had better governance and market-based systems in place that properly protected our water—a critical life resource to this region?"

Last November, voters on the East End of Long Island approved the use of Community Preservation Funds for water quality improvement projects, and those projects are beginning to be implemented. Some of this money will fund the septic system replacement rebate programs that East Hampton and Southampton

will offer, along with the Suffolk County program to be funded by the County and State. This will begin the process of installing new, less-polluting, residential wastewater disposal systems in residences throughout the County.

But we need to do more. Acting on the IBM report suggestion, Suffolk County is exploring the appropriateness of adding a fee on the consumption of water that would be dedicated to reducing pollution. All economic and funding concepts that tie the cost of clean water to the value of its protection at the source and elsewhere need to be fully considered as the next part of the how-do-we-change-what-we-are-doing conversation. No one on Long Island wants to wake up with the drinking water problems of New York's Hoosick Falls or Flint, Michigan, so let's support restoring our waters, economy and quality of life.

It's time for the way we price water to be fully reflective of water's importance to society, indeed, to life itself, and like in other parts of the country that have done just this, residents will adjust how they use and value water.

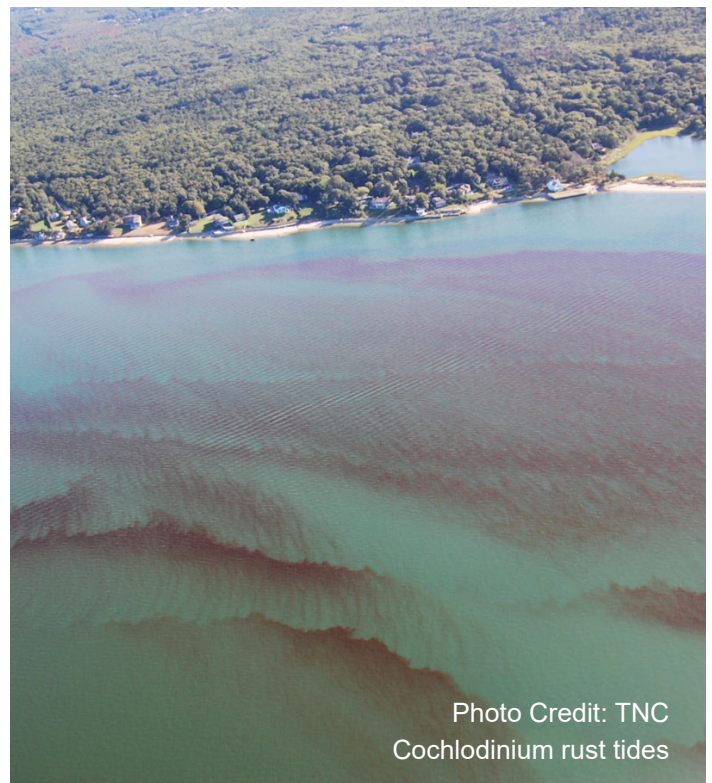


Photo Credit: TNC
Cochlodinium rust tides

The Impact of Our Water Education Program



On a frigid winter morning, students at Ulysses Byas Elementary School filled plastic cups with layers of sand, clay and gravel to replicate the layers of Long Island's aquifer. This interactive activity was part of our Long Island Water Education Program, which has educated nearly 6,000 students across Suffolk and Nassau counties since its inception in 2014 about the source of their drinking water (on Long Island: aquifers) and how land conservation protects Long Island's water resources.

"Long Island's water is perhaps our community's most precious and possibly most vulnerable resource," said Lisa Ott, Land Alliance President & CEO. "We wanted to create a school program that educates the next generation about where their water comes from and what steps they can take to help protect it."

The Long Island Water Education

Program is taught by Educator Karen Mossey to third through sixth grade students and comprises two one-hour interactive classroom sessions followed by an optional field trip to the Land Alliance's Shore Road Sanctuary in Cold Spring Harbor or nearby natural area. In the classroom sessions, students learn that Long Island's drinking water comes from an underground aquifer made of sand, gravel and clay, which acts as both a water filtration and storage system. By building mini aquifer models in plastic cups, students are able to study precipitation and runoff by simulating rain on permeable (sand and gravel) and impermeable (clay) surfaces and experiment to see how recharge and contamination happen – the smiling faces of the students at Ulysses Byas turned pensive when they observed how a single drop of red food coloring, the "pollutant," rapidly contaminated all the water in their aquifer models. At Shore Road Sanctuary,

students learn about coastal and grassland ecosystems and not only get to appreciate open space first hand but learn about the important connection between natural areas and Long Island's drinking water.

"Less than one percent of the water on our planet is drinking water," said Mossey. "It is important to teach kids about their drinking water because the best way to protect something is to learn about it."

The Long Island Water Education Program is now offered in 16 schools, 13 of which have been added since the program launched five years ago. This year alone, the program will educate nearly 1,500 students in both public and private schools including Elizabeth M. Baker Elementary School in Great Neck, St. Patrick's School in Huntington, Old Country Road Elementary School in Hicksville and the Lloyd Harbor Elementary in Lloyd Harbor.

To learn more about our water education program, please contact the Land Alliance at 516-922-1028.



Land Alliance's Annual Earth Day Event and Kickoff to the Growing Season at the Roosevelt Community Garden



Despite looming showers on April 22nd, nearly 50 volunteers including garden members gathered at the Roosevelt Community Garden for the Land Alliance's annual Earth Day event. The day also marked the kick-off of the 2019 growing season at the Garden.

Among those who stepped up to help were staff from MSC Industrial Supply Company in Melville, who also donated supplies to help beautify the Garden, and retired teachers from the Teacher's Transition Network (TTN) who shared their time distributing plants to garden members. Students from the Roosevelt Public Library and the School district's Project R.E.A.L. program also gave a hand to steward the garden and plant annuals in a few of the children's plots. Before noon, these wonderful helpers had all 49 garden plots

and the surrounding areas prepped and cleaned for its upcoming planting season. They were also able to pick some of the fresh herbs, kale and lettuce from the community herb plot and mound gardening area in the center of the garden, which was already "regrowing" from last season's crop.

The garden, now in its second year, provides healthy, organic food for families. This year's harvest will include Big boy tomatoes, cauliflower, Georgia collards, callaloo, cabbage, spinach, habanero and scotch bonnet hot peppers, red onions, peppermint and more. Another wonderful addition to the garden is the fresh, organic garlic which was planted last fall and will be ready for harvest in June.





We will continue to partner with local experts and not-for-profit organizations to host more educational workshops and programs to inspire people to try new things at home, grow more food and live healthier, happier lives. On May 14th, Charles Kemnitzer, master gardener from Nassau County Cornell Cooperative Extension, shared his expertise on vegetable gardening. On July 6th, certified holistic health coach, April Diane, will share her knowledge on *How Food Affects Your Mental Health*. And, later this fall, Garden members will close out the season with a potluck supper, sharing cultural meals prepared from the garden.

The Land Alliance is pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with Nassau County and the Roosevelt community to start this project. We are currently meeting with a local organization to discuss the future management of the garden to ensure that this wonderful legacy continues for years to come.

For more information about the Roosevelt Community Garden, contact Andrea Millwood at 516-922-1028 or andrea@northshorelandalliance.org.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers:

Retired teachers from the Teachers Transition Network (TTN), staff from MSC Industrial Supply in Melville Roosevelt Public Library, students from the Roosevelt Union-Free School District, Francis Corse Richard Kospco, Joel Shaw and Stacy Smith-Brown.

North Shore Land Alliance staff member Andrea Millwood receives recognition for work at the Roosevelt Community Garden.



Thank you to Charles Kemnitzer, Master Gardener from Nassau County Cornell Cooperative for sharing his experience and knowledge during our annual garden members training.

Volunteers Help to Make Open Space Greener



North Shore Land Alliance thanks the many active volunteers who contribute their time and energy to help us accomplish our mission.

Jim Brown - Sometimes word of mouth is the best way to attract new volunteers. Jim was brought to the Land Alliance by our long-time volunteer Rich Kopsco. Jim helps with preserve maintenance throughout our preserve system. He has been instrumental in removal of invasive plants, trail maintenance, marking preserve boundaries, watering new plantings, containing bamboo at the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden – you name it. Jim's infectious laugh and smile always help make even the toughest jobs seem a bit less challenging.

Humes Japanese Stroll Garden volunteers – The Stroll Garden has open hours on weekends from May to November. But our Stroll Garden volunteers are active throughout the year. Without them, the Garden would not look as lovely as it does. Under the skillful leadership of Manager Mary Schmutz, these men and

women take on a wide variety of tasks, among them bamboo cutting, removing leaves and sticks from paths, grooming moss, cleaning the Tea House and setting up for special events. This spring they completed a colossal undertaking by spreading ten yards of mulch on paths throughout the Garden. Normally carried out annually, this project hadn't been carried out in several years and the Garden was in desperate need of it!

Cheers especially to our most dedicated Garden stewardship volunteers: Linda Darby, Anna Hokun, Rich Kopsco, Ken Krumenacker, Dylan Noble, Joel Shaw, Mary Shimono and Samantha Struebe and public program leaders Yvonne Berger, Karen De Mauro, Daniel Soerghel, Michael Veracka and Linda McLaughlin.

Hats off and thank you to our 2019 Friends Academy Independent Service Project seniors, Carl Azfelius and Chas Merrill. Best of their many contributions was their dedication to the trails at Cushman Woods.

Year-Four of the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Stewards Program

We are excited to announce, after reviewing applications from many qualified candidates, the summer 2019 class of O'Neil Stewards. The program, endowed for five years by the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust, is designed to give college students majoring in environmental studies a well-rounded experience in the world of environmental non-profits including hands-on stewardship experience on Land Alliance preserves.

Beginning in the first week of June, these students will conduct plant surveys, wildlife inventories, maintain trails, manage invasive species, monitor conservation easements and lead environmental education programs for children. This program gives the Land Alliance additional capacity to not only maintain but improve our preserved lands for the benefit of our ecosystem and the public.

With an exciting project list and a talented team of interns, it's sure to be a productive and fun-filled summer.

Meet the 2019 O'Neil Stewards



Julia Damiano is a Long Island native, from Glen Head, NY. From an early age, Julia knew that she loved our natural world. Her love for the environment moved her to pursue a B.S. in Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as a triple minor in Environmental Humanities, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and Resource Economics from the University of Delaware, where she will be graduate this spring. After the summer, Julia will attend Northeastern University and work towards an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy.



As a recent graduate of SUNY- College of Environmental College and Forestry with a B.S. in Wildlife Science, Jeanne Wu wants to continue her education and obtain an in-depth understanding of the natural world. It is Jeanne's ambition to let everyone see the beauty in nature and to appreciate all that it gives us. Outside of her field, Jeanne enjoys orchestral music, cultural foods and exercise disguised as fun with friends. It's Jeanne's belief that engaging people of all ages and social status in the conservation movement is critical to environmental health.



Samantha Pepe is a senior Environmental Science major at SUNY Oneonta. She is returning home after a semester abroad studying in Ireland and exploring Europe. Some of her favorite activities include hiking, reading, and walks with her dog. She loves working outdoors in the field and has done so in Oneonta, New Orleans, and Guatemala during her college years. She is passionate about environmental conservation and can't wait to spend her summer doing what she enjoys most.

Walks in the Woods Update

Our 2019 Outdoor Programs calendar is chockablock with new locations, partners and activities. There is something for everyone here and it's never too late to join in the fun.



Saturday, June 8th at 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.

Friday, July 12th, 6:00 p.m. - Sue Simon, Planting Fields Arboretum, Upper Brookville - Experience nature with all your senses with a mindfulness expert. This program will have particular appeal to families.

Sunday, August 25th, 11:00 a.m. - 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!

Saturday, September 14th, 7:30 p.m. - Stella Miller, Wawapek, Cold Spring Harbor - Stella does the best Eastern Screech Owl around and will lead us

on a family-friendly hike around this Land Alliance preserved acquired in 2015.

Sunday, September 29th, 9:00 a.m. - Stella Miller & Marty Wenz, Matheson Meadows, Lloyd Neck - This 38-acre meadow preserve is a hot spot for many bird species during the fall migration. (Note: date and leader change from 2019 Walks brochure.)

Sunday, November 3rd, 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!

Sunday, December 1st, 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!

Other Cool Things to Do Outside:



Pop-Up Bike Tour

Enjoy an early morning bike ride through several North Shore villages where we will visit some of the preserved woodlands, wetlands and farmlands that the Land Alliance helped make a permanent part of the Long Island landscape.

Family and Children's Activities

Summer Thursdays at 4 p.m.: July 11, July 25 and August 8 - Led by our O'Neil Stewards, these may incorporate storytelling, creating art from earthmade materials and/or a scavenger hunt for some surprising items!

Kayak Tours

Thursday, July 17, 6:00 p.m. - Explore the cultural and natural beauty of Cold Spring Harbor at sunset from the water.

Saturday, September 7, 3:00 p.m.

Check out lower Hempstead Harbor with a paddle. We'll set out from North Hempstead Beach Park, formerly known as Bar Beach.

Registration is required. For more information, visit our website at www.northshorelandalliance.org.



"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." – Warren Buffet

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

Conservation Heroes of the American Heartland - Defending the Environment Through Sustainable Practices



Featuring Miriam Horn

New York Times bestselling author, documentary-maker and
fourteen-year veteran of the Environmental Defense Fund

Nearly 70 people ventured out to the Colony Club on a chilly evening in early April to attend our New York City Lecture featuring author and environmentalist Miriam Horn, who gave an engaging one-hour mixed media presentation on her book-turned-documentary *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman: Conservation Heroes of the American Heartland*.

Horn is the author of three books: *Rebels in White Gloves*; *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman: Conservation Heroes of the American Heartland*; and *Earth: The Sequel*, a New York Times bestseller which she co-authored with Fred Krupp, the president of the Environmental Defense Fund. The latter two books

were made into documentary films that aired on the Discovery Channel; Horn was a producer on both. Horn spent 14 years working for the Environmental Defense Fund where she won a Zayed Future Energy Prize. Prior to EDF she worked for the U.S. Forest Service and wrote for U.S. News & World Report, The New York Times, Vanity Fair and The New Republic. She holds a B.A. from Harvard University, and splits her time between New York City and the south San Juan mountains in Colorado.

The evening concluded with an intimate dinner for approximately 40 people. Tables were adorned with vases boasting beautiful yellow daf-



fodils handpicked by Lisa Ott from our very own Humes property.

The Land Alliance would like to thank Julia Burns for inviting Miriam Horn to speak and educate guests about the amazing conservation heroes featured in her documentary who have devoted their lives to protecting and restoring America's grasslands, wildlife, soil, rivers, wetlands and oceans.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

Julia Burns and Andrew Feder
Roberta and Steve Denning
Susan and Jack Foley
Stewart Title Insurance
Lawrence Linden
Sarah and Charles Morgan
Bridget and John Macaskill
Louise Parent and John Casaly

It Was an Owl of an Evening

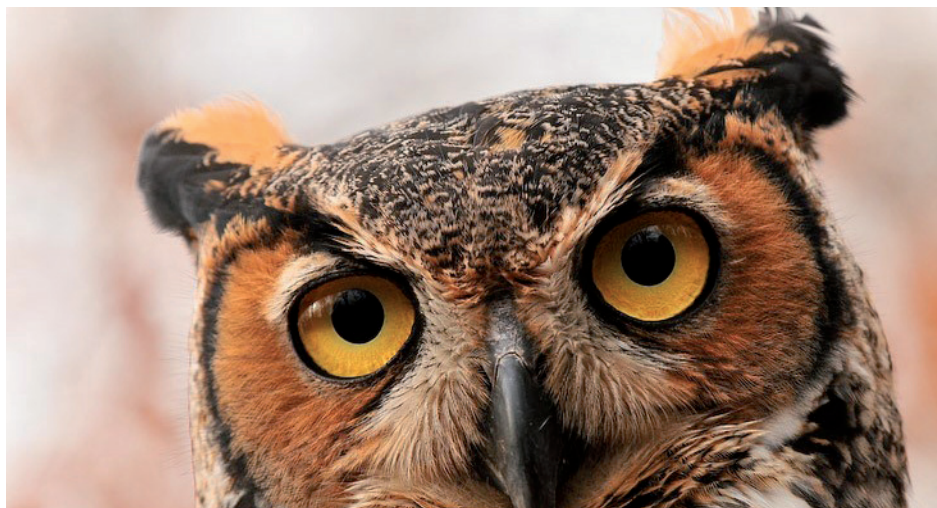
On February 8th, the Land Alliance hosted a two-hour Owl Presentation featuring Stella Miller from Wild Birds Unlimited, Syosset and Sara Peterson from Volunteers for Wildlife. Nearly 40 people attended. After a few minutes of mingling (and kids coloring owls!), Miller gave a comprehensive presentation about the amazing physical adaptations and natural history of these birds of prey.

While many people know that owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees, they may not know that these raptors can utilize the slightest amounts of light to successfully hunt and can even hunt in complete darkness thanks to their remarkable hearing. In addition to learning about these and other adaptations, Miller discussed the seven species of owls that live on Long Island throughout the seasons: the resident barn (very uncommon), Eastern

Screech and great horned owls as well as our winter migrants: northern saw-whet, short-eared, long-eared and snowy owls.

As owls are masters of camouflage, observing one is not an easy feat. Guests also learned how to seek them out by checking branches and tree cavities and being on the lookout for pellets or white wash (owl droppings!), which may indicate an owl is roosting nearby.

Guests were thoroughly engaged throughout the night and enjoyed meeting Orlando and fellow owl ambassadors Duncan (an eastern screech owl), Solomon (a barred owl from Florida) and Marcus, a big great horned owl boasting large yellow eyes who was found tangled in fishing line at a yacht club in Port Washington. It was an owl-around lovely evening.



Land Alliance Receives \$159,000 in Competitive Grant Awards

The Land Alliance is very fortunate to have received grant funding from the following organizations thus far in 2019. Awards such as these allow the Land Alliance to make improvements and launch initiatives outside the normal realm of operational funding. We are very grateful to these generous donors.

Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District

- \$6,500 for mowing, clearing and removing invasive plants at the Humes meadow.

The New York State Conservation Partnership Program funded through the Environmental Protect Fund and administered by the Land Trust Alliance

- \$37,000 to bring on a part-time volunteer coordinator who will be implementing volunteer

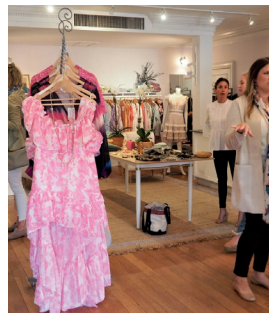
projects, recruiting volunteers, organizing a system for tracking hours and maintaining communications with volunteers

- \$40,500 to improve public access to the Humes estate by re-purposing the tennis court as a new parking area, restoring the tennis hut as a visitor center and informational kiosk and developing a trail head which will access the newly established meadow trail.

Gerry Charitable Trust

- \$75,000 grant for the stabilization of the Tavern House - parts of which date to circa 1750 – which will someday become Land Alliance headquarters and the development of a Master Plan for the Humes Estate Preserve, critical to opening the property to the public in 2020.

Sip & Shop at Ooh La Shoppe



The Ooh La Shoppe in Locust Valley was the location of a benefit party to support the Land Alliance's younger member Heritage Society. On Wednesday, May 15th nearly 30 people ventured out for a lovely evening and enjoyed 10% off all merchandise. An additional 10% was donated to the Land Alliance. Aileen Gumprecht, the owner of Ooh La Shoppe and a longtime Land Alliance supporter, set out a beautiful cheese board from Curds and Whey and a server offered wine and sparkling water to guests. The proceeds from the Sip & Shop will help support the Heritage Committee's Summer Soiree in NYC on Wednesday, June 19th at the NoMad Hotel. We are thrilled to have Ooh La Shoppe as one of the three sponsors for the Heritage event this year (the other two are Hawthorne Gardening Co. and Gabriella Schaefer, a real estate professional in NYC with Douglas Elliman). It was also nice to meet new friends there in support of the Land Alliance's conservation work.

The Land Alliance Team is Growing

Andrew Geisel, Director of Conservation



Andrew Geisel joined the Land Alliance in February as the new Director of Conservation. He received his B.A. in History from St. Lawrence University and MS in Real Estate Development from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Land Alliance, he held positions in commercial and residential real estate most recently with Stribling & Associates in New York City. Additionally, Andrew spent 2 years with DCI Group, a Washington, D.C. based public affairs firm. Andrew has been spending weekends on the North Shore for several years and recently moved from New York City to Old Brookville with his family. Previously a supporter of the Land Alliance, Andrew was

thrilled by the opportunity to join the organization and play a proactive role in protecting the North Shore's natural habitat for future generations.

Liz Swensen, Events Manager



Liz Swenson joins the Land Alliance with a background in Events and Public Relations. She grew up in Florida, attended the Kent School in Connecticut, and graduated with a B.A. degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA ('97). Liz took one year 'off' to live with a host family for 6 months in Spain, followed by another 6 months in Lake Tahoe, CA working at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Her love for the West Coast moved her to nearby San Francisco, where she spent 5 years working with an internet advertising agency, before heading back East to live in New York City. Here she began her career in Events and PR, working her way up to Senior Director at womenswear clothing brand,

Tibi. Liz, her husband Edward Swenson, and their now four-year-old twins moved full-time to Locust Valley in 2015. She continued to freelance with brands such as Vogue and Carolina Herrera before starting with the North Shore Land Alliance. Liz enjoys spending her time with family, traveling, skiing and playing tennis.

Kristen Homeyer, Volunteer Coordinator



Kristen received her B.A. in International Relations and Geography from SUNY Geneseo. Prior to joining the North Shore Land Alliance, Kristen worked for the Caumsett Foundation as the environmental intern in addition to her undergraduate research on grassland management and invasive species. Most recently, Kristen worked at Gurwin Nursing & Rehabilitation Center as a Volunteer Assistant connecting volunteers with residents in Commack, NY. Kristen is very excited to begin her position with the North Shore Land Alliance as the Volunteer Coordinator!

11th Annual Fore the Love of the Land Golf and Tennis Outing Honoring Patricia Petersen



This year's Golf and Tennis Outing took place on Wednesday, May 22nd at the beautiful Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley. It was our most financially successful and largest event to date with 180 guests in attendance! Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty President and Chairman of the Board, Pat Petersen, was honored as a dedicated and effective advocate in preserving the very places which define the character of Long Island's North Shore. Our record-breaking turnout was a true testament to Pat and her supporter's gratitude for her many contributions to maintaining the quality of our community.

We couldn't have asked for a more picture-perfect day of activities. The morning began with the sun rising over the course and our group of 24 foursomes enjoying a continental breakfast on the terrace before heading out to their respective tees. Golf prizes were generously sponsored by Holderness & Bourne and were awarded to the lowest net winners Russell Albanese, Philip Foote, Steve Malito and Greg Matthews with a score of 54. Second place net came in with a score of 57 and went to Chris Becker, Don Manfredonia, Joe Torsiello and Larry Torsiello. The first place gross winners were

Rob Ballman, George D'Ambrosio, Jamie Pacala, and Joe Zakierski with a score of 67. Men's, individual gross went to John Gilchrist (70) and ladies to Alex Gulden (98). The winner of the longest drive in the men's division was Jack Fennebresque and in the women's division was Sarah Blundin. Winner of men's closest to the pin was Greg Matthews (4'2") and ladies Liz Finnerty (86').

This year we saw the golf and tennis outings reunite, which lent an invigorating energy to the entire day. We welcomed our tennis players to the beautifully manicured grass courts for a fun-filled warm-up with the pros, followed by a round robin tournament. There were 36 players in all, with Alexis and Tim McAndrew taking 1st place in the Wimbledon flight, and Ted Bahr and Leanne Heeg as runners-up. Terry Parsons and Janine MacMurray took the lead in the French Open flight, with Suzy Dubuque and Eileen Knapp in a close second.

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful event chairs Nancy Douzinas and Patrick Mackay, golf chairs Abby Sheeline and Melissa Stark, and tennis chairs



Kim Como, Mary and Russell Selover and Margaret Trautmann for serving up a lovely group of players to benefit a naturally worthy cause.

As the activities commenced, our guests congregated on the lawn overlooking the Piping Rock golf range for lunch. We offered a raffle and an assortment of silent auction items including threesomes and foursomes at Maidstone, Bethpage Black and Piping Rock Club, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra tickets and a 40-bottle wine entertaining package, among others. Lisa Ott presented honoree Pat with a beautiful engraved crystal Tiffany's bowl to commemorate this very special day.

In Pat's acceptance remarks she announced a \$30,000 dollar for dollar matching grant in honor of her late partner Ralf Lange for the restoration of the Wawapek Greenhouse garden which will be named in Ralf's honor.

Throughout the year, the Land Alliance provides many opportunities to connect people with nature. In addition to raising important funds to support the Land Alliance's conservation mission, this Outing was another great opportunity for people to come together in one of Long Island's most beautiful recreational open spaces. This year's outing was a huge success and raised more than \$140,000 in support of land conservation projects and educational programs. Thank you to all who joined us in this effort.

If you're interested in sponsoring the 12th Annual Fore the Love of the Land Golf and Tennis Outing, please contact Liz Swenson at 516-922-1028 or liz@northshorelandalliance.org.



Annual Fore the Love of the Land Golf & Tennis Outing

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Heritage Committee Summer Soiree

Please join us for the 7th Annual Heritage Committee Benefit to Protect the Land We Love

Wednesday, June 19th at 6:00 pm
NoMad Hotel Indoor Rooftop
1170 Broadway & 28th Street, New York 10001

Hors d'oeuvres and open bar-wine and beer

To purchase your tickets or for more information, please visit www.northshorelandalliance.org/event or contact Jenny Einhorn at 516-922-1028 or info@northshorelandalliance.org.

SAVE THE DATE!



2019 Wine and Spirit Auction
Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Groton Farm, Old Westbury

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For more information, please contact Liz Swenson at liz@northshorelandalliance.org.

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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.



SAVE THE DATE



A Special Presentation about Food and Climate Change
Followed by a Panel Discussion

Monday, October 28th at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's Grace Auditorium
Cold Spring Harbor**

Introduction by Dr. Bruce Stillman,
Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Presenter – Katy Kinsolving, C-Change Conversation
Panelist from Earth Justice, The Nature Conservancy and
the Cold Spring Harbor Lab

Invitation to follow



JOIN US!

North Shore Land Alliance
Annual Members Meeting
Saturday, October 19th
Land Alliance Planting Fields Office