



# Conservation News

Protecting Open Space on Long Island's North Shore

## NORTH SHORE LAND ALLIANCE

Volume 16, Issue 31

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*Humes Preserve, Mill Neck*

## The Humes Preserve – A Place Where Nature Meets People

The North Shore Land Alliance purchased the Humes Estate (28 acres) from the Humes Family for conservation purposes on July 10, 2015. Two years later we purchased the adjoining Humes Japanese Stroll Garden (7-acres) and Smithers connector parcel (7 acres). The Estate property had been severely neglected for many years prior to our acquisition. It included eight structures in various stages of disrepair, a central meadow which had been used as a public dump (for a decade) and eight underground oil storage tanks that required removal! The purchase price was \$5.2 Million, and the Land Alliance needed to borrow \$4 Million to close the deal. At this point, some might have questioned why we took on this challenge.

Five years later, thanks to the help of many (and a few complicated transactions), the Land Alliance retired its Humes debt in January 2020. With that behind us, we have begun to make the long-awaited improvements necessary to open the Humes property to the public. In this instance, foresight has paid off and things are coming together beautifully.

*(Continued on p. 3)*



## Conservation in the Time of COVID: Reflecting on What's Essential.

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, we hope this issue of *Conservation News* finds you and your families well. The realities of COVID-19 have forced all of us to look at our lives differently. In many instances our homes have become our offices and our children's schools. We have been separated from our friends and families in an effort to keep them healthy. The word "essential" has taken on a whole new meaning. Today it defines select businesses, travel activities and front-line workers who are critical for society to function in the age of a pandemic.

After these last few months, how can we help but reevaluate what is important to us, what is truly essential? If there has been a silver lining to this horrible pandemic, more people are venturing outside and reconnecting with nature. Whether it's taking more walks, spending more time in their garden (or taking up gardening) or exploring open green spaces and public parks, people are realizing the important role these outdoor spaces play in maintaining human health and wellbeing. For many of us, opportunities to be outside have themselves become essential. They gave us a feeling of normalcy when nothing else could!

Never in my 18 years at the Land Alliance have I been prouder of our organization as I have over the last few months. By keeping our preserves open and increasing our outreach efforts to publicize them, we have been able to provide a much-needed community service. We have always known that protecting land was critical to protecting our drinking water, ensuring clean air, providing habitat for plants and animals and growing healthy local food. But I never imagined how important these protected lands would be as a source of joy and solace in challenging times like these. In fact, people have approached me on the street to say they never really understood what the Land Alliance did until now – followed by a quick thank you!

This massive pause we've been experiencing offers other glimmers of hope too. For example, smog has decreased greatly in Los Angeles and carbon monoxide emissions are down by 50% in New York City. While these occurrences are unlikely to be sustainable as the world reopens, they do show we can make a collective difference for our climate if we choose to. We also have learned that large, multi-national agricultural systems are not as resilient as smaller, local ones and that supporting local farmers is both essential and sustainable. Being at home in our gardens has allowed us to watch spring emerge more closely, including enjoying the arrival of the birds, butterflies and bees. Watching these wonders firsthand also has reinforced the importance of caring for the earth, with all of its interconnected complexities.

In this issue of *Conservation News*, we are proud to feature our newest public space – the Humes Preserve. We will highlight recent improvements and look back at some of the property's history. We'll also feature ten other preserves that the Land Alliance owns and/or manages and await your visit. We'll talk about the significance of the Beaver Brook watershed, native plants and how to avoid ticks and mosquitos. We'll feature some of the wonderful volunteers who contribute so greatly to the care of our preserves. We also will acknowledge you, our donors, who provide us with the inspiration and financial support to do our work. And, in these challenging times, we applaud the U.S. Congress. It finally came together around the Great American Outdoors Act, the most important conservation legislation passed in the last 50 years.

As the world begins to improve, let's not lose sight of the good lessons we have learned about nature. Maybe these times are calling upon us to consider the Earth as "essential" and take better care of it! As farmer and poet Wendell Berry said, "The Earth is what we all have in common".

Stay well and please continue to get outside and enjoy this beautiful community we are lucky enough to call home.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa W. Ott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lisa W. Ott, President and CEO

(continued from pg. 1)

The Land Alliance hopes the Humes Preserve will become an integral part of our community – a place where people can watch birds, observe native plants, hike woodland trails or sit on a bench by the meadow watching the grasses bend in the wind. We see this as a place where a growing family can push a stroller, a young child can safely learn to ride a bike or climb on a log and feel joy when a chipmunk pops out to say hello. We hope this will be a place where people can connect with the wonders of nature while appreciating the richness of the past and working together to build a better future.

The Humes Preserve is not intended to have the manicured perfection of Planting Fields or Old Westbury Gardens, nor will it have the undisturbed nature present in Shu Swamp. It is more of an in-between place – a place where people meet nature! On one end of the preserve, one can experience the culture and formality of the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. From there you can connect to a trail which will take you through the woods to the wonders of Shu Swamp and extends all the way to Upper Francis Pond. If you veer right, you will pass the outdoor exercise area, cross the child-friendly interior road and end up in the newly restored meadow. The possibilities are endless!





Photo credit: Jan Guga

While we will have to get back to you as to an exact date for opening (pending Mill Neck Village approval), we hope to welcome you later this summer. Only then will you understand why it was so important to protect this wonderful place. While taking on the debt took some courage, the conservation value of the land, then and now, was just too great to risk losing it to development. Those values included:

**Connectivity:** With its location between Shu Swamp, Upper and Lower Francis Ponds and adjoining 15-acre Nassau County property, the Estate created an important open space corridor on the North Shore of Long Island, totaling nearly 150 contiguous acres.

**Water Quality:** The Humes property is referenced as a priority parcel in the 2009 and 2014 New York State Open Space Conservation Plans. It is a Class I freshwater wetland area and falls within the Town of Oyster Bay's Special Groundwater Protection Area. It also is a United States Geological Service designated watershed and in FEMA's 100-year flood zone.

**Scenic and Habitat Value:** The Humes property is comprised of beautiful sloping land, specimen trees, historic buildings and garden remnants. It has the potential for a series of scenic hiking trails. It will provide community access (including disability access) to a valuable natural area which has not been previously available to the public. It also is home to noteworthy flora and fauna, including regionally rare plant species. In addition, it provides an area for species adaptation as sea level rises.

**Historic Significance:** The Humes Estate is part of an historic 1650 border treaty, which created the boundary between the Dutch to the west and the English to the east. The evolution of the property paralleled the development of the North Shore from its earliest days as a home to the Matinecock tribe, followed by farmers and finally, the country estate of former U.S. Ambassador to Austria, John P. Humes, Sr. and his prominent wife Dr. Jean Schmidlapp-Humes.

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." ~ Baba Dioum, 1968*

## Meadow and Trails Update



Suzanne and Carter Bales Quiet Meadow

Since our last newsletter update, the Suzanne and Carter Bales Quiet Meadow has started to look more meadow-like. After two years of clearing, rubbish removal and weed management, we seeded warm-season grasses and a small volume of wildflowers (along with winter rye), in the phase one area (3.5 acres) last November. The winter rye, an annual, has taken hold to help with soil stabilization and weed competition until natives can become established. The native grasses and wildflowers will come in more gradually. To add some color to the meadow this first summer and fall, we added more mature perennial wildflowers (aster, goldenrod, phlox, indigo and others) in a number of planting locations alongside the trail, thanks to a very generous donation from the North Country Garden Club. Phase 2 areas adding up to almost an acre are still undergoing clearing and weed management but are slated to be seeded this fall. One of the highlights of our winter work was the use of a forestry mower to tackle long-entrenched woody debris in these areas. Now steps made of river stone, accompanied by an array of grasses, shrubs and wildflowers have just been installed.

We were VERY surprised and delighted to receive a gift to wildlife and the meadow from Land Alliance Treasurer Jonathan Moore: an enchanting bird box he built at home by reusing cedar boards, pineapple cans and other materials. Jonathan also installed the box, facing east, adding a very welcome dimension to the meadow. MANY thanks to you, Jonathan!!

*Conservation News* readers viewed in our last issue a network of existing and proposed trails through a corridor of 150 acres of protected land in the Beaver Brook watershed. New woodland and meadow trails at Humes and the Frost Mill Connector Parcel connect to existing ones in Shu Swamp and Upper Francis Pond to complete a five-mile circuit. Our O'Neil Stewards and volunteers are taking on some of the trail installation, vine removal, weeding and monitoring (native and invasive) plant growth along the trails and in the meadow.

*“Little things seem nothing, but they give peace, like those meadow flowers which individually seem odorless but all together perfume the air.” ~Georges Bernanos*

## Thank you to the Contributors to the Suzanne and Carter Bales Quiet Meadow Restoration



### **\$10,000 and More**

Anonymous Donor, Roberta and Stephen Denning, Botsy and Hoyle Jones  
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Julia and Eric Vaughn, Helen and David Weinstein, The Krusos Foundation and Peri and Martin Wenz

# Improvements at the Humes Property



## Humes Formal Garden

Finishing touches are being made to one of the larger ongoing projects at Humes. Following the clearing of overgrowth and masonry repairs of the Innocenti & Webel designed formal garden and the refurbishment of the old tennis hut, planting is finally underway. In addition, the tennis court has been completely removed and is being converted into the visitor parking area, this time with a permeable bluestone surface! James Wellington of Innocenti & Webel was chosen as the landscape designer and has implemented a thoughtful and elegant plan. Arriving visitors will be greeted with an element of formality reminiscent of a country estate that wonderfully juxtaposes itself to the more natural elements of the adjacent meadow and

woodlands. The formal garden and welcome hut complex will offer visitors a serene environment to enjoy a beautiful array of plants and shrubs, including boxwoods, holly, sedge, cypress, roses, azaleas and rhododendrons.

## Humes Flexes Its Muscles

The Land Alliance is excited to announce the creation of an outdoor fitness area at Humes. Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor and fitness enthusiast, this area will be a unique amenity enhancing the Humes visitor experience. Following multiple site visits with the donor and local trainer Carl Wermee, a discrete location next to the woodland trail has been chosen. Strategically tucked away outside a wooded area,

the five-station fitness nook will offer a diverse array of exercise options. The stations are a subtle combination of steel and wood that will blend in naturally with the surrounding habitat.



Tennis Hut Before



Tennis Hut After

## Humes Acquisition Contributors 2015-2020



### \$1,000,000+

Anonymous Donor  
Botsy and Hoyle Jones

### \$150,000 to \$600,000

Anonymous  
Verena and Rod Cushman,  
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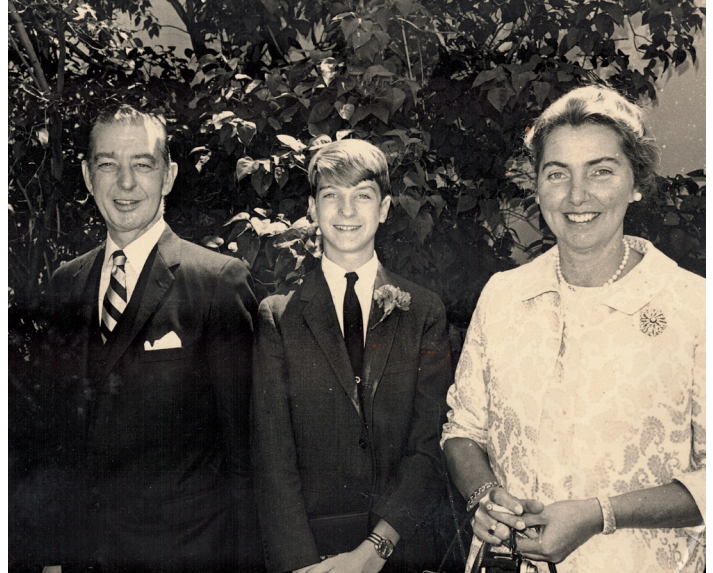
\* Gifts in kind



## Experience the History of the Humes Preserve



U.S. Ambassador to Austria, John P. Humes  
and Princess Grace of Monaco



Ambassador John P. Humes, Port Humes  
and Jean Schmidlapp-Humes

The Schmidlapp-Humes Estate, now known as the Humes Preserve, has a long history that dates to the Matinecock Indian tribe's occupation of the area. It includes 17th century boundary disputes between the Dutch and English and milling and farming from the 18th to 20th centuries. Its transformation to a country estate began in the early 1920s, during the second wave of the Country Place Era. This was a time when wealthy New York City families sought a retreat from city living and commissioned prominent architects and landscape architects to create their country estates.

Articles in *The New York Times* and *The New-York Tribune* document Carl J. Schmidlapp's real estate transactions from 1924

through 1927 that resulted in an 83-acre estate complete with buildings designed by Peabody, Wilson & Brown, gardens by Ellen Biddle Shipman and Vitale and Geiffert and two stocked trout ponds and trout streams. The oldest structures we see on the property today - Rumpus House and Tavern House - served as primary residences for the Schmidlapp and Humes families for nearly a century.

The transition from a single country estate to two distinct family complexes began in 1952 when Frances and Carl Schmidlapp hired architect Alfred Shaknis to design a remodeling and expansion of the two-bedroom Tavern House (located on the west side of the property along Oyster Bay Road). A year later Frances and Carl gave

### HUMES MASTER PLAN FUNDERS

The Schmidlapp-Humes Historic Master Plan was funded in part by a grant from the Northeast Intervention Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

And through additional support from the Gerry Charitable Trust and Patricia O'Donnell, Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners

Cultural Landscape Report (basis for Master Plan) Preservation League of New York State - Preserve New York is a signature grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts and the Preservation League of New York State. Preserve New York is made possible with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, with generous additional support from The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

their youngest daughter Jean Schmidlapp-Humes three acres of land, the now four-bedroom cottage and a garage with parking court. In 1954, Jean hired Kasso and Luce to build a children's playhouse where the remodeled tennis hut now stands.

Two years later, with a fifth son on the way, Carl Schmidlapp sold two more acres of land to the Humeses, bringing their land holding to just under 6 acres. This transaction marked the beginning of the development of the Humes family compound. The building campaign they initiated under Alfred Shaknis and guided by Innocenti & Webel's landscape design lasted from 1954 to 1962. Projects included a second-floor addition to the Tavern House, an expansion of the garage to accommodate guest quarters, a new garage and entrance drive, a tennis court and adjoining rose garden for Jean. They also included the creation of an entertainment area complete with a swimming pool, fountain, pool house and patio with a built-in barbeque that served as the centerpiece of the

property. It was outdone only by the addition of a curved stairway that led to the wine cellar constructed below a new greenhouse with a fountain and potting shed. The last major landscape undertaking was John's Japanese Stroll Garden which was inspired by his business travel to Japan and interest in Asian culture. After his purchase of a tea house in Japan in 1962, the Tavern House back yard and pond were transformed over the next three years into a stroll garden under the direction of Joni and Douglas Defaya.

When the Humes Preserve officially opens to the public, a series of photographs depicting the property's history will be housed in the former tennis hut. The exhibition will include aerial photographs, designs from Innocenti & Webel's archives and images from what remains of the Humes family photo albums. The tennis hut/exhibition space was recently restored through a generous grant from the Paul and Maxine Frohring Foundation.

Please stop by to learn more.

## Become A Friend of the Humes Preserve

The acquisition of the Humes property was a significant financial undertaking for the Land Alliance. To raise the funds necessary to maintain the trails and care for the preserve into the future, we are creating an inaugural "Friends of the Humes Preserve" group. This special group of founding members will help us steward a place we hope will be enjoyed by our community for years to come. For more information please visit our website [www.northshorelandalliance.org/donate](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org/donate). In addition to ensuring sustained stewardship, there are several niceties yet to be purchased and projects yet to begin. Please check out our website or give us a call if any of these naming opportunities pique your interest. 516-922-1028.

### Underwrite a Tree or Something Bigger

- Native understory trees for the meadow's edge  
Donation: \$500 each (10 needed)
- Dogwood trees for the entry alley  
Donation: \$1,000 each (30 needed)
- Adirondack chairs for the meadow's edge  
Donation: \$650 each (six needed)
- Hammock for chilling in the shade  
Donation: \$650 each (three needed)
- Picnic table with benches for the family picnic area  
Donation: \$3,500 each (three needed)
- Woodland buffer of native shrubs  
Donation: \$5,000 (60 shrubs included)
- Garden bench for a little rest along the trail  
Donation: \$5,000 each (six needed)
- Help us educate the public by underwriting interpretive signage for the preserve  
Donation: \$5,000
- Meadow garden benches so you can watch the grasses bend in the wind  
Donation: \$10,000
- Native woodland demonstration area to inspire others to plant native species  
Donation: \$12,000
- Restoration of the former Humes potting and cold frame areas for garden education  
Donation: \$15,000

## Humes Japanese Stroll Garden Update



The John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden opened on May 2nd, offering serenity (a place of peace) for visitors during this very trying spring. On Saturday, June 13th our Shakuhachi performer, Daniel Nyohaku Soergel, returned and delighted visitors with the soothing tones of his Japanese bamboo flute. Daniel will be performing the second Saturday of each month throughout the season.

The Garden is a place of refuge from the pressures of everyday life, making it especially desirable currently. Its strolling style moves visitors along the woodland path, while stepping stones lead to the pond edge, where they may catch a glimpse of a green frog, turtle or fish.

Year after year, Garden Manager Mary Schmutz continues to welcome Stroll Garden volunteers and classes of O'Neil Stewards and pass along the traditions of the garden. All are learning about bamboo and path management, moss grooming and a wide variety of other projects.

Among our many volunteer projects is that of Greg Viscovich, leader of Glen Head Boy Scout Troop 195 (and mentioned in this issue's Volunteer highlights)



whose carpenter skills were put to use repairing two benches for the wisteria arbor. Garden interest runs in the family: his son Calvin serves as a garden attendant during open hours and is considering conducting an Eagle Scout project at the Stroll Garden.

Thank you to our volunteers and staff who kept the garden open and tended to during the COVID-19 time out.

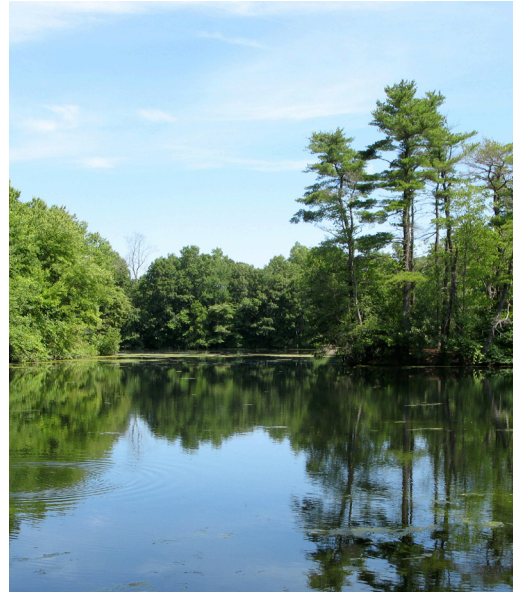
Check our website [www.northshorelandlliance.org](http://www.northshorelandlliance.org) for upcoming programs.



## Biodiversity in the Beaver Brook Watershed



skunk cabbage and marsh marigold



Smithers Pond, Mill Neck

The extraordinary variety of life on earth - a balance among plants, animals, microorganisms and the ecosystems in which they are found - is known as biodiversity. Protecting land locally helps preserve the biodiversity found right here on the North Shore of Long Island. Protecting land also provides “ecosystem services” such as protection of water resources, pollution breakdown and absorption and contribution to climate stability.

The Beaver Brook watershed’s biodiversity is noteworthy for Long Island –even though it is a mere 20 miles from New York City. Spanning parts of Matinecock, Upper Brookville and other villages and much of Mill Neck, the Beaver Brook watershed is one of Long Island’s most treasured and ecologically valuable natural areas.

The brook starts as a trickle between Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley and Planting Fields Arboretum in Upper Brookville. It flows northward, forming a small pond before it passes under Oyster Bay Road. There it enters Upper Francis Pond, where a pair of Osprey have nested for years. After narrowing to a creek again for a few hundred feet at the spillway at the pond’s northern edge, it forms Lower Francis Pond and then passes through a culvert under Frost Mill Road. North of

that it flows into the Humes Preserve, creating a quaint pond behind the historic main house. Continuing northward the brook enters Shu Swamp. Finally, the brook makes its way to Beaver Lake, beyond which the Mill Neck Creek estuary passes into Long Island Sound.

Throughout its journey, Beaver Brook and the lands it winds through support outstanding biodiversity. The brook’s cool, oxygenated waters now provide habitat for brook trout to breed and pools that shelter a diversity of amphibians. River otters move through swamps and forage for fish in ponds. Numerous species of woodpeckers and owls nest in cavities in snags (standing dead trees) that line the brook and fill surrounding woodlands. Skunk cabbage and spring ephemeral flowers delight visitors even before trees leaf out. A few weeks later iridescent ebony jewelwing damselflies can be seen hovering above the brook’s rippling water.

North Shore Land Alliance and its partners North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary and Nassau County have protected a corridor of 150 contiguous acres of largely undeveloped land at the heart of the Beaver Brook watershed. Connecting and preserving these natural areas provides incredible ecological benefit to our community.

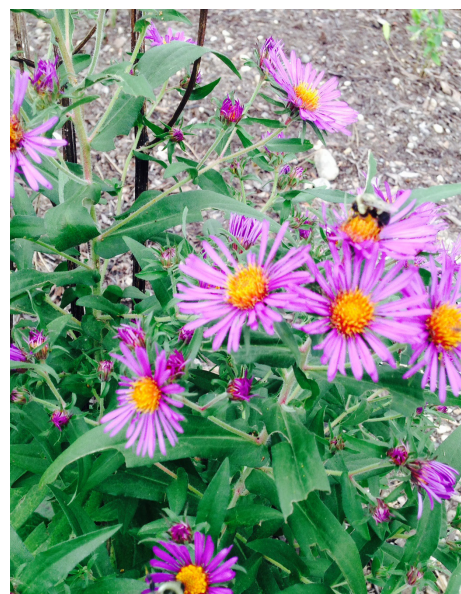
## Benefits of Native Plants



Foxglove beardtongue



mountain laurel



New York aster

With warmer months finally settling in and more time spent at home, many of us have been planting. Have you considered native plants when making your choices? In the past, beautiful and hearty native plant options, especially Long Island species, were not readily available but that has changed. There are numerous benefits to having these species in your garden. Read on to learn more:

Native plant species attract and support native birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware Professor, points out in his now infamous *Bringing Nature Home*, that a native oak tree can support 500 species of butterflies and moths. The caterpillars of these insects in turn provide a large volume of food for hungry chicks. Just think about it: a single nest of recently hatched chickadees will gobble up 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars while under their parents' care. The juicy caterpillars (and many of the insects native plants support) are easy for adults to shove into nestlings mouths. It's no wonder nearly all (call it 96%) terrestrial bird species depend on caterpillars as a major food source while nesting. And speaking of food for wildlife, an important part of garden maintenance is not removing seed heads on plants in fall/winter. They provide further sustenance for wildlife throughout the colder months until spring arrives.

In addition to food, native plant species provide many more of the shelter resources our wildlife requires than non-natives. Long Island's warm-season grasses, for example, often grow in bunches, leaving open areas among them so that ground-nesting birds can escape from predators. Conversely, non-native species can cause harm. Note the heartbreaking effect of invasive black swallow-wort and pale swallow-wort on the Monarch butterfly. It is well known that Monarch butterfly eggs will hatch only from milkweed plants. When these butterflies instead lay eggs on swallow-wort, which are in the milkweed family (*Asclepiadaceae*) but native to Europe, the caterpillars will not eat them which results in wasted reproduction attempts that can cause a sink in Monarch populations. Swallow-wort can also out-compete the native milkweed.

Planting natives in turn supports greater biodiversity and abundance of native wildlife. When buying, look for straight species (non-cultivars – missing the “name in quotes” following the species name). While some cultivars are bred for traits in ways that result in plants almost identical to the straight species (from a pollinator benefit perspective), many do not have the nutritional value non-cultivars do and some are even toxic to wildlife. Native species also tend to require less maintenance than their non-native counterparts. Once

established, native plants generally do not need regular (if any) watering. Natives do not rely on use of fertilizers and pesticides to thrive. A reduction in phosphorus and nitrogen found in fertilizers means less algae-producing runoff into our waterbodies. Native plants, in addition, do not require mowing as lawns do. Substituting native plants for part of your lawn, then, will yield more food and shelter for wildlife while decreasing water use and contamination of our water resources.

And if it's only the bottom line that counts (though we know that for readers of *Conservation News* this is not the case!), keep in mind that maintaining a wetland or native grassland costs a fraction (about 15% over 20 years, according to one study by Applied Ecological Services) of lawn maintenance costs.

## Wawapek Update

### Screech Owl Boxes Added

The Land Alliance partnered with Avalon Preserve's Nature Initiative (formerly Students Taking Action for Tomorrow's Environment) to install ten screech owl boxes at Wawapek Preserve in Cold Spring Harbor. Wawapek was selected for its mature hardwood woodland with access to the Long Island Sound - ideal habitat for screech owls.

Avalon Preserve's Nature Initiative was formed to get students interested and engaged in nature. The bird box building project was initiated in February during students' February break. At each of two sessions, 10-12 students helped build boxes while learning more about birding and particularly screech owls. Marty Wenz of The Krusos Foundation provided both instruction and advice for the best locations for the boxes. He also singlehandedly cleared invasive burning bush from one site.

While the original plan was for the students to install the boxes themselves, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to make other arrangements. On a scorching hot day in late June, our O'Neil Stewards and staff worked with Marty and Avalon's Kayla Kraker to install the boxes at several locations throughout the preserve. The process involved attaching boxes and a predator guard to each of five 16-foot posts, digging three-foot holes in rocky soil with a post hole digger and installing the

posts into the ground. This would have been no small feat in 60-degree weather! In total, over one hundred volunteer hours went into this screech owl box project.

The Land Alliance thanks Kayla and Marty for sharing their time, resources and expertise with our crew. We could not have done this project without you!



## Ralf Lange Greenhouse Garden Matching Grant

Wawapek is an important shared resource that, like all Land Alliance preserves, provides an opportunity for the community to experience and enjoy nature. It can be hiking the trails, taking a stroll or letting children run around the open lawn. Thanks to support through the Friends of Wawapek, we can regularly mow the lawn and maintain the trails. Preserve improvements (such as maintaining the yew hedge and blueberry patch, reconstructing the trellis and installing the pollinator garden and fruit trees) happen through special project-based gifts and grants.

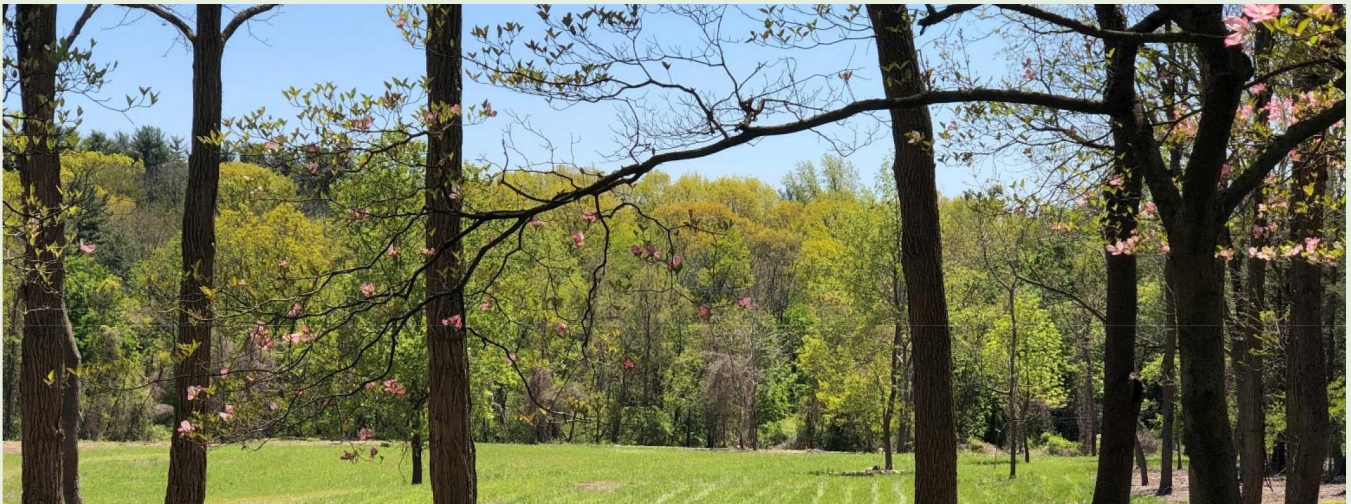
Next, we hope to restore the historic greenhouse and surrounding garden. In fact, the former de Forest property originally had two Hitchings & Co. greenhouses. They were so significant that in 1902 the *Long Islander* announced they were being built and

announced their completion. Today one greenhouse is still standing, along with the brick foundation of the other larger greenhouse.

The successful completion of this project has come closer with Pat Petersen, Chairman of the Board and President of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty, announcing a \$30,000 dollar-for-dollar matching gift in honor of her late partner, Ralf Lange. This gift, and the matching funds raised, will support the restoration of the greenhouse garden (which will be named in Ralf's honor). Pat is a dedicated advocate in preserving the very places which define the character of Long Island's North Shore. We hope you will join Pat in supporting the next preserve improvements at Wawapek. Plans are underway!

**Do you want to ensure that your vision  
of how our community looks in the future is realized?**

**Land Alliance Board Chairman Hoyle Jones does.**



Help make a lasting impact in our community for future generations.  
Join Hoyle by making a provision for the North Shore Land Alliance in your estate plans.

Please contact Nina Muller at [nina@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:nina@northshorelandalliance.org) or  
516-922-1028 to talk further about making a planned gift.

# North Shore Land Alliance Nature Preserves

## Get to Know the 10 Public Preserves We Own or Help Maintain

During these uncertain times, nature can help us slow down and recharge. In fact, the latest research suggests that spending time in nature reduces stress and anxiety. We currently own or help maintain ten preserves open to the public. These properties boast intricate trail systems, diverse ecological communities like salt marshes, wetlands and meadows, and are home to an array of native animal and plant species (some of which are estimated to be over 1,000 years old).

### Cushman Woods - 28 acres

#### South end of Still Road (south of Duck Pond Road), Matinecock

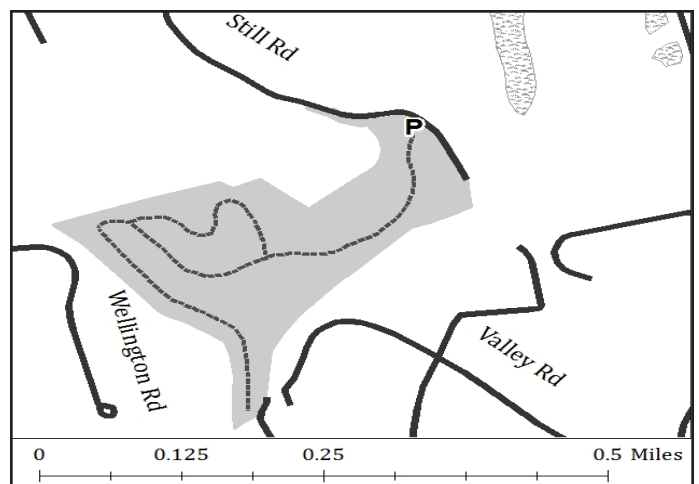


yellow trout lily

Beautiful yellow trout lilies are among the many native plant species that are blooming at the 28-acre Cushman Woods. According to the latest research, the average age of a trout lily colony can be up to 150 years old. They potentially can be over 1,000 years old in undisturbed forests.

The trail system at Cushman Woods is the largest of all the North Shore Land Alliance preserves. It boasts several restored carriage trails that were once used for fox hunting. In the 1920s, the property was part of the estate of Paul Cravath, a prominent Manhattan lawyer and partner of the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore. It was purchased by the Land Alliance with the invaluable support of Verena and Roderick H. Cushman in 2016.

There is a small parking area at the entrance to the preserve.





## Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve - 42 acres Chicken Valley Road, Upper Brookville



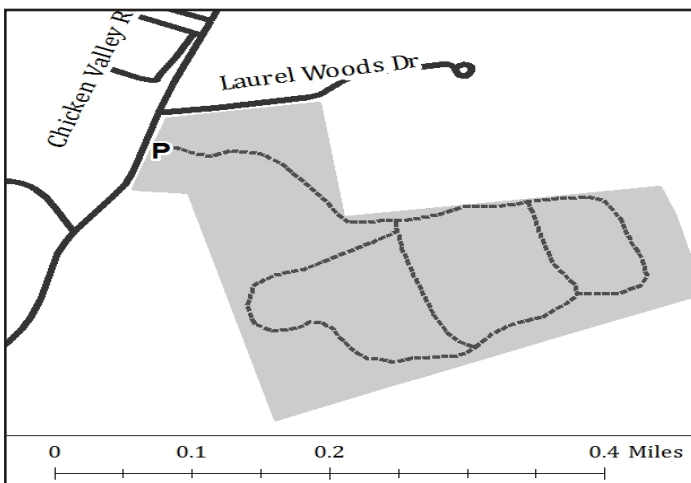
The Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve is home to beautiful sugar maples (the New York State tree), a colorful meadow and white pine forest. Red fox, box turtles, Eastern screech owls and red-tailed hawks are just a sampling of the animals that inhabit there. The preserve used to contain two fields, a portion of which remains, that were farmed by

the Youngs family. Farming there was discontinued in the 1960s due to lack of irrigation.

Who is Hope Goddard Iselin? Mrs. Iselin was an American heiress, sportswoman and conservationist who, in 1931, gave the Village of Upper Brookville its name. The 42-acre preserve was named after Mrs.

Iselin as it used to be part of her exquisite 160-acre estate, Wolver Hollow, which was built by her and her husband in 1914.

The preserve contains a one-mile interpretive trail and parking for four to five cars.



**Cordelia H. Cushman Preserve - 15 acres**  
South side of Route 25A across from Yellow Cote Road, Oyster Bay Cove



A dozen native plant species protected by New York State make their home at the 15-acre Cordelia H. Cushman Preserve. There you may spot lovely pink lady's slipper, spotted wintergreen or dwarf rattlesnake plantain (a low-growing wildflower).

Protecting native plants is crucial

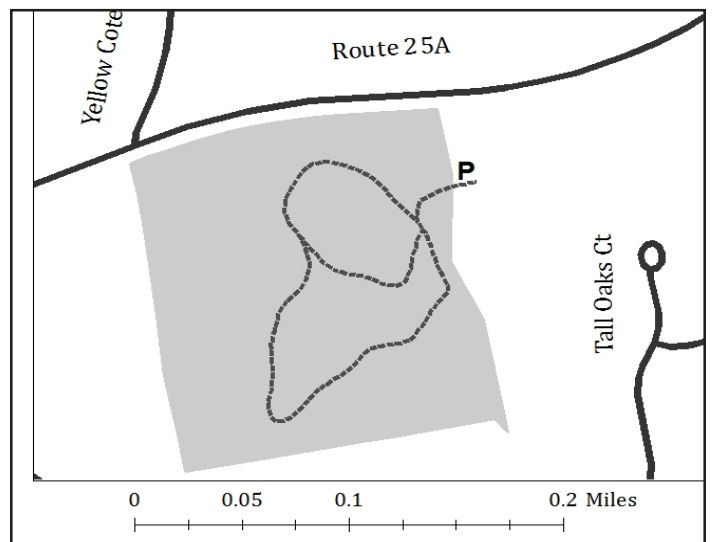
because they are the foundation of healthy wild ecosystems. Over 100 years ago, part of the Cushman property was used to raise racing horses. The land was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cushman in the 1930s. In 1973, their son Roderick Cushman donated 15 acres to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC has since donated the property to

the Land Alliance. The woodland there has not been forested for generations.

Trails follow a nice short loop, with moderate elevation. There is a tiny parking area, which can be accessed off Route 25A.



pink lady's slipper



Shore Road Sanctuary - 8 acres  
95 Shore Road, Cold Spring Harbor

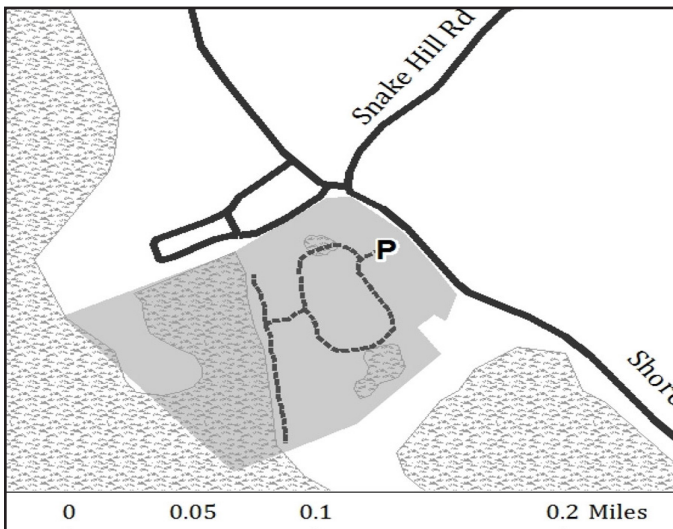


A thriving grassland, saltwater marsh, beach and wet meadow comprise the eight acres that is Shore Road Sanctuary. These diverse ecological communities attract and support countless wildlife and native plants, including a variety of birds, butterflies, horseshoe crabs, warm season grasses, sea lavender and more.

The preserve did not always look this way. It was operated as a petroleum fuels distribution terminal from 1924-2003! ExxonMobil completed removal of the storage tanks and buildings from the harbor-front property in 2010 and soil remediation followed.

The property was donated to the

Land Alliance in 2012. The preserve, which contains a small parking area, lies within a New York State-designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat and National Audubon Society-designated Important Bird Area. The loop trail that winds through the grassland is enhanced by educational signage.



## John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden - 7 acres Dogwood Lane, Mill Neck



This unique and historic 7-acre gem of landscape design and woodland is home to an impressive collection of North American and Asian plants that constitute a beautiful Japanese landscape. They impart a meditative experience. Take a stroll down the stepping-stone path and you'll see bamboo groves, Japanese cedars, Yakushima rhododendron, a koi pond and an authentic Japanese teahouse.

The Garden was created by Am-

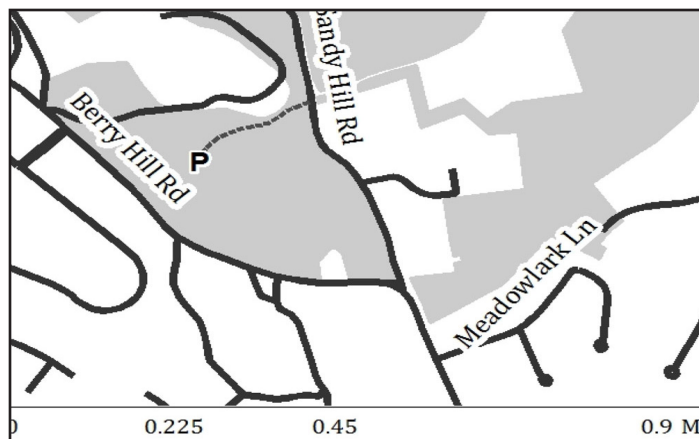
bassador and Mrs. John P. Humes following a visit to Japan in 1960. They hired Japanese-American landscape designer Douglas DeFay and his wife, Joni, to design the garden on their Mill Neck estate. The Land Alliance purchased the property in 2017 for conservation purposes. The acquisition of this parcel completes a conservation corridor that stretches over 150 acres in the middle of the Beaver Brook watershed. It effectively links the Stroll Garden and larger Humes property

(also owned by the Land Alliance) to Shu Swamp and the two Francis ponds. Corridors like these are crucial for movement of wildlife, as they prevent inbreeding or reduced genetic diversity.

The garden opened in May this year for the season. For more information, please visit our website at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org).



formal teahouse



Red Cote Preserve - 30 acres  
Yellow Cote Road off Route 25A, Oyster Bay Cove



This 30-acre property contains a spacious parking area. It boasts woodlands, scenic trails and two large wildflower meadows that seasonally burst with color and the hum of insects like the Monarch butterfly, (a species whose numbers have declined over 80 percent since 1990 and is now at risk of extinction).

Meadows can be biodiversity hotspots, hosting scores of

different species of wild flowers and/or grasses that support a myriad of insects, which in turn support many birds and other small animals. In addition, they capture vast amounts of carbon and help mitigate flooding by holding onto rainwater.

Three Eastern red cedar trees that are estimated to have grown to nearly 70 feet in height can be found in the western meadow. These trees

are native to Long Island and can live for over 1,500 years.

Red Cote Preserve was used for farming for many decades. Aerial photographs from the 1920s show farm fields with narrow hedgerows of trees between them.

The North Shore Land Alliance manages this preserve under a stewardship agreement with Nassau County.



## Tiffany Creek Preserve - 200 acres Sandy Hill Road at Berry Hill Road, Oyster Bay Cove



A mix of ecological communities can be found on this spectacular 200-acre preserve, such as old growth woodlands and oak forest, extensive fields, freshwater wetlands and a large pond. The last of which was acquired by Nassau County with Environmental Bond Act funding.

The preserve lies within the Oyster

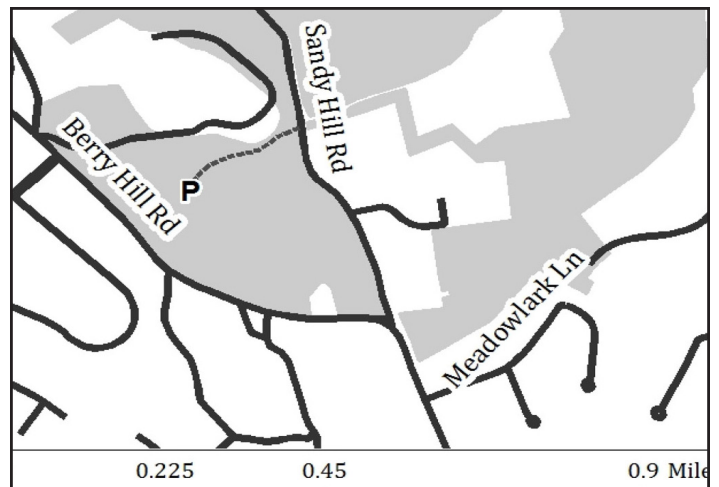
Bay Special Groundwater Protection Area, Nassau County's largest SGPA. Protecting undeveloped land, whether at this preserve or at any of the Land Alliance preserves, is critical to protecting Long Island's sole source aquifer. This large piece of property is surrounded by an additional 250 acres of privately protected lands, which enhance the conservation values found there.

Nassau County acquired the parcels of land that make up Tiffany Creek Preserve from the John M. Schiff family in 1992 with help from The Nature Conservancy.

The Land Alliance stewards 14 meadow acres of the preserve.



Held Pond at Tiffany Creek Preserve



Fox Hollow Preserve - 26 acres  
Route 25A near White Oak Tree Road, Laurel Hollow



Canada mayflower at Fox Hollow Preserve

This beautiful 26-acre preserve contains an unusual variety of distinct forest types that feature a diversity of oak, beech and other hardwoods; white pine woodland and shrub layers dominated by mountain laurel and maple-leaved viburnum. The diversity of trees and other plants attracts many different bird and other wildlife species to the preserve. Take a stroll there down the hilly trails, which contain some of the steepest sections of trail in Nassau County. Depending on the time of year, you could easily

spot or hear great horned owls, red-bellied woodpeckers, a diversity of warblers and red-tailed hawks.

Fox Hollow used to be part of a 1,000-acre farm. In the 1920s the field was planted with white pine trees and in the 1930s the site was turned into an equestrian center. Fox Hollow is part of the Route 25A Heritage Area and also located in a state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Area. Groundwater recharge occurs on Long Island when precipitation seeps into

permeable ground and replenishes the underground aquifer, the sole source of Long Island's drinking water. Protecting open space is critical for protecting drinking water. In 2012 The Nature Conservancy donated the preserve to the Land Alliance.

Fox Hollow welcomes visitors arriving by foot. No designated parking is available at this preserve. You can walk or bike or park at the nearby Cushman Preserve.



Photo credit: Jan Guga

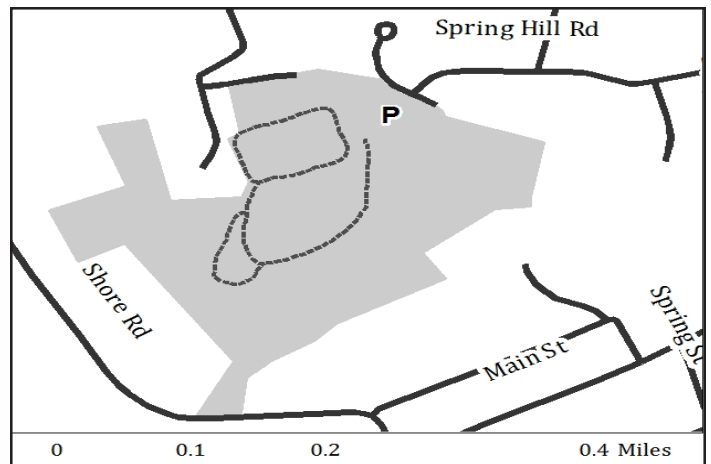
Wawapek - 32 acres  
3 Mowbray Lane, Cold Spring Harbor



Perched above the historic hamlet of Cold Spring Harbor, this stunning 32-acre preserve at one time was being considered for development into 13 house lots. Mature hardwood forest, which comprises over 60 percent of the preserve, protects air quality and provides erosion control throughout its steep ravines. Native trumpet honeysuckle was planted in 2018 to replace wisteria at the preserve's trellis, and an assortment of highbush

blueberry bushes are laden with delectable fruit in summer. A pollinator garden that attracts a variety of indigenous insects and a historic round of yew hedge and specimen trees round out the formal garden, while trails allow visitors to explore the woodland on site. Take a stroll and you might catch a glimpse of some of the animals that live there, like foxes and state-protected box turtles. Wawapek was once part of a 600-plus acre estate and farm

owned by the de Forest family. In partnership with the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York State, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy and 358 private donors, the Land Alliance was able to acquire and permanently protect this environmentally significant property in 2015. This was the first time in Suffolk County that a private organization shared title with the County.





Louis C. Clark Sanctuary - 8 acres  
Valentines Lane near Longridge Lane, Old Brookville



wetlands at the Clark Sanctuary

This eight-acre preserve is one of the Land Alliance's most ecologically diverse preserves. It contains a mix of upland forest and freshwater wetlands, with trails traversing the narrow strip of woodland separating Valentines Lane from the wetland in the northern parcel.

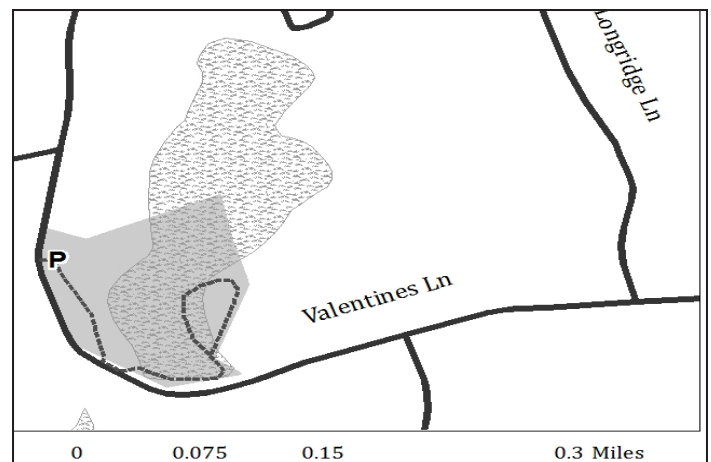
Over the past 130 years, the Long Island Sound area has lost 31 percent of its tidal wetlands (according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Despite tidal wetland legislation passed in the 1970s, wetland decline in Long Island Sound continues.

Over 100 bird species make their home at this preserve and nearby James Preserve. According to the latest research, there are three billion fewer birds in North America than there were 50 years ago; protecting open spaces like these helps protect critical bird habitat. There are also several species of fish, frogs and

turtles that inhabit the property.

Prior to its protection, this land belonged to a larger parcel known as Valentines Farm. Louis C. Clark Sanctuary was donated by Frances S. Weeks to The Nature Conservancy in 1965 in memory of her son Louis Crawford Clark. TNC donated the property to the Land Alliance in 2012. Louis C. Clark Sanctuary has a tiny parking area and welcomes visitors arriving by foot.



## GOVERNMENT UPDATES



### FEDERAL Great American Outdoors Act Moves to the House

We are thrilled to share some great news. On June 17th, the Senate delivered a historic victory for conservation with its 73-25 vote to pass the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). This landmark legislation secures full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 Million annually and provides \$1.9 Billion annually for the next five years toward much-needed maintenance in national parks and other public lands. The LWCF has funded projects in every state in the country. They include our own Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Planting Fields Arboretum and Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

Passage of the GAOA is arguably the most important conservation achievement since President Johnson established the LWCF in 1965. It is remarkable that this non-partisan legislation, years in the making, would be passed in such a challenging time. This, too, is a testament to the power of nature and the importance of conservation.

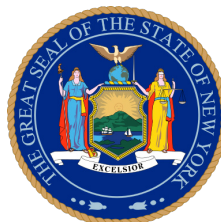
The Land Alliance applauds the United States Senate for assuring investments in our cherished public lands and taking necessary steps to make sure our treasured national parks will be safe for generations to come. Many thanks to New York Senators Gillibrand and Schumer for their support of the GAOA.

We also thank you, our members, for responding to our advocacy alerts and reaching out to your elected officials about important legislation like this. More and more, we are seeing that every letter or email we write to our elected officials counts, that each little action we take is cumulative in lessening the impacts of climate

change, and thus the work we do in partnership with other organizations amplifies our ability to make a meaningful difference.

As we take a moment to celebrate this historic vote, we must also recognize there is still more to do. The GAOA now moves to the House of Representatives and is expected to be taken up later in July. While in both chambers there has been deep bipartisan support of the GAOA, passage is not guaranteed.

Please reach out to our Members of Congress, Peter King, Kathleen Rice and Tom Suozzi, and encourage them to vote “yes” in support of the GAOA. The very parks and open spaces we have relied on so heavily during this pandemic are depending on all of us! Passing the GAOA is not only an historic event. It is a chance to strengthen conservation, restore our economy, create much needed jobs and protect invaluable natural resources.



### NEW YORK STATE Could there be a \$3 Billion Saving Mother Nature Bond Act this year?

Recognizing the threats New York is facing from climate change, Governor Cuomo proposed, and the legislature approved, a \$3 Billion environmental restoration bond measure. This once-in-a-generation conservation ballot measure authorizes the state to issue bonds for investments in natural climate solutions such as the conservation of wetlands, forests, waterfront lands and farmland. Funds will prioritize natural carbon capture. They will help communities like Long Island with a wide variety of resiliency measures, including flood prevention, parks, trails and other green infrastructure.

If passed, the bond would authorize the following expenditures:

- Up to \$700 Million for climate change mitigation, including projects that alleviate urban heat islands (like parks), and programs that reduce or eliminate water pollution in the poorest communities.
- Not less than \$1 Billion for restoration and flood risk reduction, helping to fund flood buyouts, coastal rehabilitation and shore restoration.
- Up to \$550 Million for open space and recreation, with funding for farmland and open space preservation.
- Not less than \$550 Million for water quality improvements and resilient infrastructure, which will fund municipal stormwater and wastewater infrastructure projects.

The Bond Act was approved prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. At this point it is hard to know if the bond measure will move forward, considering the costs NYS has incurred in addressing the pandemic. A decision about the bond measure is expected by August. If it moves forward, the Land Alliance hopes to play a significant role in ensuring its successful passage.

### **The Rauch Foundation Challenge \$100,000 Dollar-For-Dollar Matching Grant Opportunity**

The North Shore Land Alliance was started nearly 18 years ago through a grant application The Nature Conservancy wrote to the Rauch Foundation for start-up costs. Now, many years later, having successfully protected nearly 1,200 acres of environmentally significant natural areas, we are very pleased to enjoy the continued support of this wonderful foundation. Over the years, we have learned that education is a critical part of saving land. People need to understand the whys of conserving land – especially the important relationship between protecting land and protecting water, both surface and groundwater. In an effort to convey this message far and wide, the Land Alliance started the Long Island Water Education Program in local schools. To date, we have educated 7,708 children from 25 schools in 14 districts (across Long Island) about the source of their drinking water and the importance of protecting the natural areas that protect the quality of our waters. We opened 11 preserves (soon to be 12) to the public and have provided much needed opportunities for people to get out and enjoy nature. Proof that, when we come together to protect important natural areas, we all gain.

The Rauch Foundation remains committed to our water quality, cross-sector collaboration and the promotion of regional leadership. As part of the Land Alliance’s Campaign to Protect the North Shore, the Rauch Foundation made a generous leadership gift in the form of a matching grant designed to encourage other foundations to invest in our mission and the future health of Long Island. We are grateful for this generous support and continued endorsement of our work.

To ensure the sustainability of the Long Island Water Education program and help the Land Alliance expand the program’s reach to new schools, the Rauch Foundation is sponsoring a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant challenge.

**If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nina Muller at 516-922-1028 to discuss ways that your foundation can support our efforts.**

# The Joyce C. and William C. O'Neil Stewards Program Class of 2020



This is the fifth year of the O'Neil Stewards Program. This summer internship program for college students and recent grads has been endowed for five years by the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil

Charitable Trust. While the first four years were very successful, this year has been the most popular yet! 120+ candidates applied for our internship program making the selection process quite competitive.

Our 2020 internship program kicked off on June 1st. The first few weeks have already yielded results: stewards built two new trails at the Humes Preserve, removed invasive plants from the meadow at Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, weeded the pollinator gardens at Shore

Road Sanctuary and Wawapek, maintained trails at Fox Hollow and Red Cote Preserves and assisted our garden manager at the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden.

New this year, the O'Neil stewards are also developing a Notes from the Field blog that will be posted on our website to keep our members updated about all the work they are doing this summer.

## Meet the 2020 O'Neil Stewards



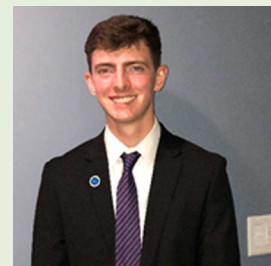
Peter Markotsis

A Long Island native, Peter is a rising senior at Vassar College majoring in Earth Science and Society (a unique blend of Earth Science and Geography) and minoring in Creative Writing. When not exploring the Peconic Bay on a paddle board or attempting to hike the 46 highest mountains of the Adirondacks, Peter can often be found reading outside, or nestled in a bookstore in an effort to write a novel about dragons.



Nicole Miliano

Nicole is a senior Environmental Sustainability/Geography major at SUNY Oneonta. She is looking forward to gaining experience working outdoors in the hopes of protecting our natural resources. During a service trip in Guatemala, her passion for preventing land and water pollution was reinforced. She is interested in water quality, land conservation, travel and being immersed in different cultures.



James Pizaro

James is a student at Stony Brook University focusing on Environmental Studies. He is a Long Island native and an Eagle Scout and has dedicated hours of service to conservation through scouting.

He is excited about helping our environment with his summer work at the Land Alliance!

# Long Island Water Education Program

Reflections from a Classroom Teacher by Jane DeRosa, 6th Grade Science Teacher



Since 2014, the North Shore Land Alliance has been visiting my West Side School sixth-grade science classes in Laurel Hollow to teach about the effects of pollution on Long Island's aquifer. I have been teaching for over 30 years, and this workshop/field trip is by far my favorite! Two classroom workshops are held by Karen Mossey from the Long Island Water Education Program, in preparation for the field trip to the Shore Road Sanctuary. Through hands-on inquiry, Ms. Mossey engages the students to think about the amount of drinking water that is on Earth, which leads them to question about our drinking water here on Long Island. Ms. Mossey brings in supplies so the students can build their own aquifers, which allows them to visualize the different layers of Long Island's Magothy aquifer. The kids are always amazed to discover that we rely on water that comes from an aquifer and how important it is to keep it clean.

The hands-on field trip to the Land Alliance's preserve in Cold Spring Harbor connects what the kids learned during Ms. Mossey's classroom visits and their own world. My students are always delighted to discover

the grassland, shoreline and life buried in the sand and under the rocks, while testing water quality and soil permeability. Every year one of the highlights is discovering the abundance of the Asian Shore Crab species, first found on the North American Atlantic coast in 1988, and the impact invasive species have on our ecosystems. The students love to find mussels, (especially after learning that just one consumes four gallons of water every day), and blue-blooded horseshoe crabs that have been inhabiting our shorelines for over 450 million years. Volunteer educators explain that each day, litter finds its way to our shores. This program has truly impacted my students over the years – they leave the experience always wanting to educate others.

*Since its inception, the LIWEP has reached 7,708 students in 25 schools in 14 school districts from north to south. This impact would not have been possible without dedicated funding from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, the Merrilyn Foundation, the Rauch Foundation and the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation.*

## Year Three at the Roosevelt Community Garden



Now entering our third year, Garden members kicked-off the growing season on April 22nd (Earth Day) with an annual clean up of the garden and distribution of plants and seeds to gardeners to start their gardening.

This year, we are pleased to continue our partnership with the Roosevelt Public Library and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County to provide garden workshops and hands-on demonstrations to help gardeners and members of the community to succeed at growing food. The Land Alliance also remains grateful to Nassau County for their work to

build the garden and create more access for community members to grow their own organic food. Healthy, local food enhances not only gardeners' quality of life, but also their community environment.

A series of educational workshops were scheduled for early spring, but due to the COVID 19 pandemic, these activities were postponed.

For more information about the Garden, please visit us online at [www.northshorelandalliance.org/rcg](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org/rcg).

### Annual Earth Day 2020 Event and Season Kick-Off with Social Distancing



30 People gathered at the Roosevelt Public Library for the Garden to Table: Prepare to Grow workshop with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County.



New display board and bookshelf installed. Reading books donated by The Book Fairies.



Volunteer Peter Meleady instructing local student how to plant



## Testimonials

“The Garden is a superior community asset. Please continue your good work.”

~*Daphne Adedeji/Gardener*

“I love the community garden, it helps me find calmness and feel connected to the earth especially during these challenging times when we are in the midst of a pandemic. It’s nice to see others in the community. Everyone sharing and learning about gardening is a healthy way to connect with others and building lasting friendships.

~ *April Diane/Gardener*

“One of the best reasons to have a garden is to teach children where food comes from. How it's supposed to look and taste. We have loved our experience with this community garden and we’re looking forward to many more years!”

~ *Julia Schilling/Gardener*

“The Roosevelt Community Garden is a great addition to the community.”

~ *Silinda Hickson/Community Member*

“I had a wonderful experience as a first timer. I learned a lot and members were very helpful throughout the growing season. Thumbs up!”

~ *Dimas Rodriguez/Garden Member*

“I truly believe that this project will help to usher in much needed transformation and economic revitalization to our community. ...We may be facing some hyper-inflation as indicated by the increased prices for goods and the community garden may be a means to protect vulnerable populations such as the elderly, homeless and orphans in Roosevelt by setting aside a portion of the harvest from the garden to donate to these vulnerable people.”

~ *Michelle Avery/Community Member*

## Volunteers for Open Space Highlights



Richard Weir



Peter Meleady

The North Shore Land Alliance would like to thank the many active volunteers who contribute their time and energy to help us accomplish our land conservation mission. These individuals spend time in our preserves and, assist with community outreach events and office needs. In this issue of *Conservation News*, we would like to highlight two volunteers who have provided extraordinary services this spring (and over time).

**Richard Weir** trained at Cornell University, spent his career with the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Nassau County. He currently serves on the Land Alliance's advisory board and stewardship committee. Richard was most generous to share his expertise and hard work ethic this past March when he offered the stewardship team sage counsel on how to prune the very large round of yew hedge at Wawapek in Cold Spring Harbor. Richard offered much more than pruning advice spending nine hours over the course of two days with chain saw in hand to cut the yew hedge to the appropriate height. He was also instrumental in removing decades of wisteria vine growth from the base of the yew hedge, making the job that much tougher!

Richard worked non-stop the entire time and inspired Land Alliance staff with his dedication to preserving the central element of this historic garden. Thank you for all your hard work, Richard!

Since joining our volunteer corps earlier this year, **Peter Meleady** has made a real difference. An expert horticulturist, Peter has been involved with many invasive plant removals and pruning projects at Shore Road Sanctuary and has reinvigorated the trumpet honeysuckle trellis and blueberry bushes at Wawapek. He is also involved with projects and educational programming at the Roosevelt Community Garden and our Humes Japanese Stroll Garden manager looks forward to his assistance there, too. Peter often going to preserves after work or early in the weekends before he leaves to spend time with his family, shows dedication and knowledge that have resulted in a much-improved landscape. Thank you for your commitment and many contributions to the Land Alliance, Peter!



## Volunteer Activities

**Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve (Iselin), Upper Brookville:** 23 volunteers came out in sub-twenty-degree temperatures to remove invasive vines and shrubs close to the interpretive trail. This Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service event helped with not only clearing invasive vegetation but also creating brush pile habitat for wildlife. Special thanks to the many volunteers, including the Jericho High School Environmental Club, who joined us! The MLK Day of Service is a federally designated holiday to promote and encourage all Americans to improve their communities and to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Students from Professor Michael Veracka's HOR 340, The Sustainable Garden, at SUNY Farmingdale visited Iselin multiple times during the fall. The goal of the course was to learn about actual environmental management at local preserves. This unique class combined traditional classroom learning with field visits to the preserve. Students conducted hands-on assessments and developed management proposals for optimizing habitat at the meadow. Their last visit to the preserve incorporated a formal presentation of their plans in front of a review panel. The panel consisted of Land Alliance staff, Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District's Secretary Pat Aitken and District Manager David Ganim. The Land Alliance thanks Professor Veracka for including us in this worthwhile endeavor and applauds his class for their innovative and practical management suggestions.



**Shore Road Sanctuary, Cold Spring Harbor:** 12 volunteers braved inclement weather to partake in a beach cleanup and habitat restoration project that resulted in the removal of over 500 pounds of trash from the shoreline of the Long Island Sound. Trash collected included fishing line, foam, plastics and metal pipes. Volunteers then helped install plastic tarp to discourage invasive crown vetch in an area of the Sanctuary's grassland. Many thanks to this stalwart crew.

**Humes Preserve, Mill Neck:** The Land Alliance partnered with REI for their annual #OptOutside Day, a nationwide cleanup event held on Black Friday to encourage consumers to give back to the environment and their community and spend the day outside instead of shopping. Volunteers helped remove trash from the Humes meadow (which is undergoing restoration). Volunteers also helped in the removal of invasive garlic mustard and Chinese silvergrass. Overall, the 50 volunteers collected over 1,000 pounds of trash from the meadow. We thank everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm!

**Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, Mill Neck:** Under the expert guidance of Stroll Garden Manager Mary Schmutz, we hosted a four-part series of volunteer events to help manage bamboo. 12 volunteers, using loppers and hand saws, selectively pruned bamboo to create healthier groves. Thank you Stroll Garden volunteers for your help during the Stroll Garden off season!



## Where There's a Will, There is a Way



While many internship programs were being cancelled this spring, the Land Alliance worked with Friends Academy to retool their Independent Service Project traditionally offered to seniors in their final semester. Instead of being in the office and paired with others

in the field, Friends Academy students Michael Mead and Blake Nagel worked independently throughout May and June to spearhead some meaningful work. Their lessons included independent stewardship projects in the field, interviews with Land Alliance staff regarding non-profit management, the role of stewardship in maintaining North Shore Land Alliance preserves, communications, and fundraising and an environmental film festival of sorts.

Michael and Blake also collaborated to create an online “friendraiser” to raise money to purchase a Friends Academy tree at the Humes Preserve; their virtual fundraiser raised over \$500! Thank you to Michael and Blake for all their hard work during their internship and good luck this fall as college awaits!

## Good Deeds Continue

**Boy Scout Troop #195:** Troop #195 of Glen Head has provided extremely dedicated volunteers for the Land Alliance for several years. In 2020, as in past winters, the scouts sharpened all our stewardship tools. Troop #195 has also assisted us with trail building and maintenance at Cushman Woods and Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve. Troop leader Greg Viscovich and his son Calvin have also dedicated time to several carpentry and other projects at the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. Thank you so much for the continued support and service of Boy Scout Troop #195!

**Louis Lavenda:** Troop 195’s Louis Lavenda earned his Eagle Scout Award by constructing a sign-in kiosk at the entrance of Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve. Louis’ Eagle Scout project involved fundraising, building and installing the kiosk as well as replacing tired trail markers with sturdy new ones. Louis showed real initiative and maturity in creating the design for the kiosk as well as organizing the entire project and communicating his plans with the Land Alliance. His novel fundraising method was online sales of his own

beautiful handcrafted wooden bread boards. Generating more than he needed to purchase supplies, he donated the surplus to the Land Alliance! In total, Louis put in over sixty hours to complete his Eagle Scout Award. Congratulations on becoming an Eagle Scout, Louis. We appreciate all your leadership and hard work!



## Tick Talk



Black-legged (or Deer) Tick



Asian Tiger Mosquito

From a glass-half-full perspective, we are delighted that the Land Alliance was able to present one of two scheduled tick talks in March before we all started isolating.

On March 5th at the Locust Valley Library, Dr. Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, an entomologist and a Senior Extension Associate with the New York State Integrated Pest Management (NYSIPM) Program at Cornell University, provided over 40 attendees a thorough, fascinating and highly educational program, Ticks and Mosquitoes: Avoid Their Bites! (Alas, we were unable to proceed with our second scheduled event at St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor.) We at the Land Alliance understand that for people to want to protect nature they must love and experience it. Our objective was for audience members to feel comfortable being outside in natural areas.

Among the many species of mosquitoes and ticks, Jody introduced us to is the stunning Asian Tiger Mosquito, pictured above. She identified tips for managing standing water, such as drilling small holes into the bottoms of trash and recycling containers that otherwise might fill with water where mosquito eggs and larvae could develop. She also discussed a wide variety of repellents and their effectiveness.

While not all tick species are a human health threat, Jody's presentation focused on the species that are most problematic in New York: American Dog Ticks, Lone-star Ticks and Black-legged (or Deer) Ticks. The preferred habitat of these three species, unfortunately, ranges from turf to lawn edge areas to the woodland beyond. Just our luck. Jody discussed several tick-borne diseases and tick hosts, particularly white-footed mice.

Best of all, she talked about how to prevent tick bites:

- avoid touching plants at the sides of paths
- dress in light-colored clothing with pants tucked into socks
- use repellents or permethrin (which kills ticks when properly applied to clothing)
- send outdoor clothing through a hot dryer cycle after returning home
- and – most importantly – CHECK – for ticks when you get home!

She also introduced us to useful habitat management tools, such as removal of invasive vegetation, and important research underway.

Thanks to The Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach and Sexton Adam Waywell for their support, Michael Vinas for coordinating activities at the Locust Valley Library and Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann for a top-notch program.

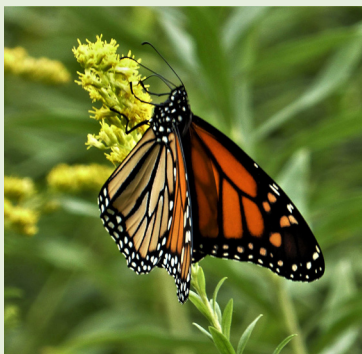
## North Shore Land Alliance Member Highlights



We have received an extraordinary amount of positive feedback about our many public preserves recently. We are thrilled that so many people in our community were able to safely visit them during the shutdown, especially considering many national and state parks had to close. Land Alliance member, Meg Morris, visited several of our preserves over the past few months with her family and dogs. Here is what she has to say. Thank you, Meg!

“The Land Alliance preserves have been a godsend! We take our dog for a walk each day and, when the trails we usually use closed at the onset of the pandemic, we started exploring the Land Alliance preserves, which stayed open. We’ve checked out Hope Goddard Iselin,

Cushman Woods, Tiffany Creek and Louis C. Clark Sanctuary, which is right down the street from us. The Hope Goddard Iselin preserve is one of our favorites. We used to drive by and see the small parking lot jammed with cars and assumed it was a tiny little loop. Why did we assume that? We love the trail through that beautiful meadow and then the deep shade and quiet of the forest. And, even if the lot is full of cars, somehow, we almost never run across anyone on the paths while there! This has also been a wonderful way to see friends during this time as we can meet and walk together at a safe distance. We feel so lucky to have these trails in our community - and grateful they allow dogs.”



### Your Membership Matters!

North Shore Land Alliance relies on the generous support of our community. Your membership support will ensure that we are able to acquire the land that matters most, maintain protected open space and provide valuable educational programs.

**To join or renew your membership, please visit us at  
[www.northshorelandalliance.org/donate](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org/donate).**

# Job Opportunity

## Coming Soon - A Water Quality Improvement Coordinator



Did you know that nitrogen pollution is the #1 environmental threat to Long Islands harbors and bays? After years of fish die-offs, red and brown tides (and worse) and unsuccessful efforts to clean water through seeding filter feeders like oysters and clams, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Stony Brook University identified the source of the problem - nitrogen. And surprisingly, the main source of the nitrogen was not fertilizer as previously believed, but from human septic making its way through our aquifers and into surface waters. Suffolk County and partners, like TNC and Stony Brook, have been leading the charge in identifying the solutions necessary to solve this problem. They have gone so far as to identify and codify the best new technologies available. Western Nassau County is experiencing these same problems and local governments are looking to the East End for tried and true solutions.

Thanks to a special grant coordinated through The Nature Conservancy, with additional support from the Scotts Miracle Grow Foundation, the Land Alliance will be hiring, on an 18-month trial basis, a Water Quality Improvement Coordinator (WQIC). The

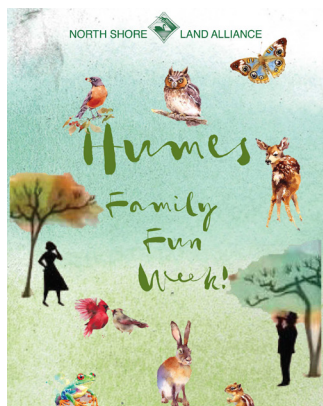
WQIC will assist Long Island homeowners in replacing their septic systems and cesspools with nitrogen removing systems that meet the best available technology standards. The WQIC will also focus on expediting local, state and county funding sources for modernizing existing on-site wastewater infrastructure, such as Suffolk County's Septic Improvement Program. The focus will be on those areas identified in the Suffolk County Subwatershed Plan, Long Island Sound Study and the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan as high priorities for nutrient abatement to restore water quality primarily within Long Island's North Shore.

The WQIC will directly engage homeowners who live in areas designated as high priority, such as ours, and where local governments have funding sources in place to modernize on-site wastewater systems. He/she will work in tandem with partners to: 1) identify areas that will benefit the most ecologically from modernizing on-site wastewater infrastructure, 2) prioritize areas based on the community's willingness to participate in grant programs (with preference given to low-income areas) and greatest environmental impact and 3) choose approaches to engage and educate communities that best meet community needs for modernizing on-site wastewater infrastructure (which will include workshops, lectures, mailers, email blasts and newsletters).

If you are interested in reviewing the job description or learning more about the services that will be provided, please give us a call at 516-922-1028.

Protecting the lands that protect our water is the Land Alliance's primary goal. We are pleased to be a part of this remarkable new endeavor to protect Long Island's water quality.

## Celebrate the Opening of the Humes Preserve August 12th, 13th and 14th

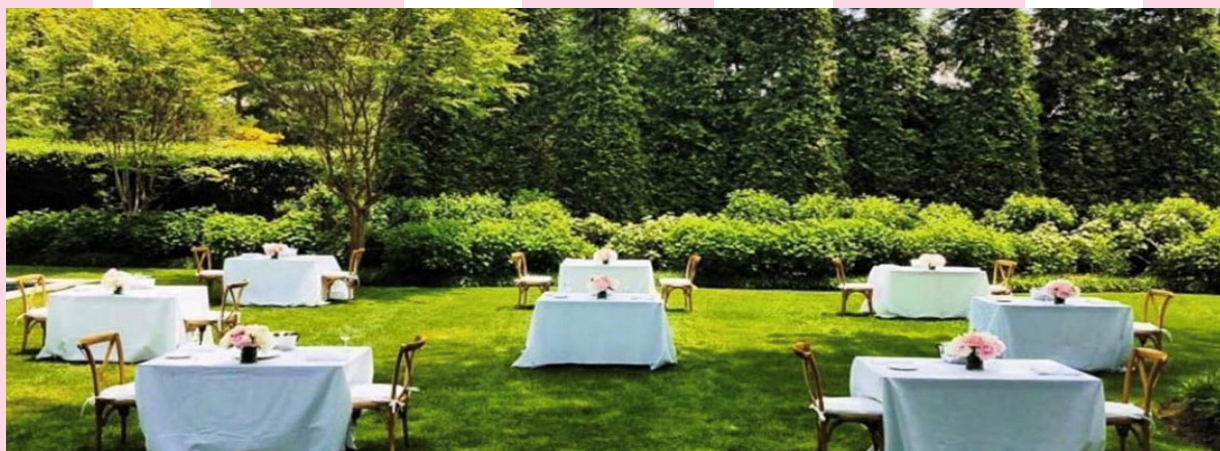


Now more than ever people are realizing the importance of our valuable open space on the North Shore. To celebrate the upcoming opening of the Humes Preserve, we will be holding a 3-day “Family Fun Week” event, encouraging families to get outdoors, get active and get involved. We’ll be offering a 5K family run and walk (including the option to friend-raise in support of the Land Alliance), a kid’s nature scavenger hunt with arts and crafts, a guided adult nature walk and a fitness session with local trainer, Carl Wermee – spots will be limited to 30 each day in observance of social distancing rules.

We hope you’ll join us in bringing together our community while staying safe and enjoying our newest public preserve.

**For more information, please contact Liz Swenson or Jenny Einhorn at 516-922-1028.**

## SAVE THE DATE!



**Saturday, July 25th at 6:00 pm  
Elegant Summer Picnic and Cocktails  
Humes Meadows Edge**

Limited to 50 people in compliance with current health and distancing regulations.  
For details or to purchase tickets please contact Nina Muller at 516-922-1028 or [nina@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:nina@northshorelandalliance.org).

## Come “Rock the Boat”

North Shore Land Alliance 18th Annual Wine Auction & Dinner  
Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club



We are very excited to be hosting this year's Wine Auction at Seawanhaka on Saturday, October 3rd with a yacht rock theme, titled “Rock The Boat”. This will take place on the main lawn under a sailcloth tent with panoramic views of Oyster Bay Harbor. The night

will feature blue and white nautical-inspired decor, boat-chic attire, captains hats and an incredible Yacht Rock 80's band, while our charitable focus will emphasize the importance of preserving our water resources.

Our amazing 2019 Co-Chairs - Allison and Jay Aston, Kate and Chad Doerge, Jenna Bush Hager and Henry Hager, Amory and Sean McAndrew and Claudia and Gunnar Overstrom - will once again be leading the efforts in gathering a great group of supporters for a fun and memorable evening. As with every year, we will be celebrating a

special Honoree for his/her conservation efforts and exceptional work in bettering our community. Come “Rock the Boat” with us and make a difference in our community! We sincerely hope our world will be in a better place come October but please do check our website at [www.northshorelandalliance.org](http://www.northshorelandalliance.org) for updates on the status of our events.

**For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Liz Swenson at [liz@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:liz@northshorelandalliance.org) or call 516-922-1028.**



SAVE THE  
NEW DATE!

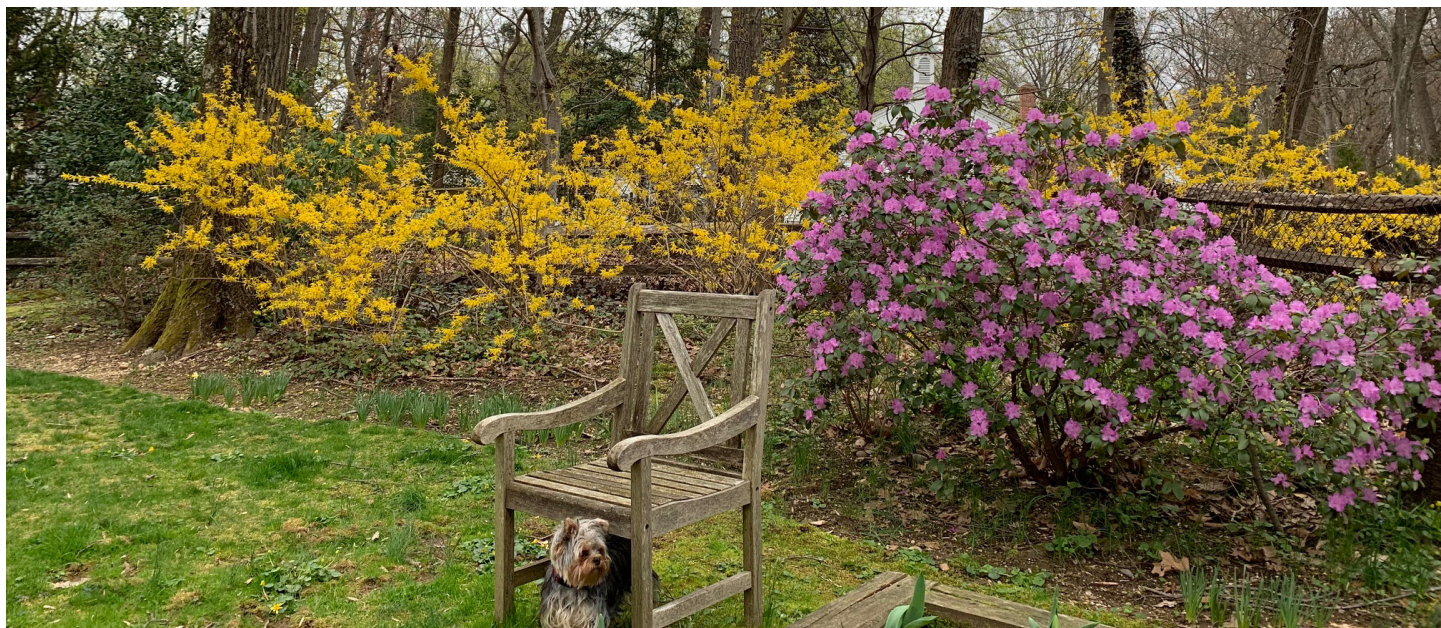
*For the Love of the Land*  
Golf & Tennis Outing  
Tuesday, October 13  
Piping Rock Club

Our Golf and Tennis event has been rescheduled to Tuesday, October 13th and Piping Rock Club will again be the site. We are confident this new October date will bring us a perfect fall day where we can all enjoy the outdoors at a safe distance!

This year we are pleased to honor two couples, Hope and John Reese and Phyllis and Brad Weekes, for their extraordinary commitments to preserving natural areas and the flora and fauna that call them home. Both families have contributed significantly to the history of our community and the preservation of its natural resources. We look forward to bringing our loyal Land Alliance supporters back together for this special annual event, and no better place to do that than in the wide-open space of Long Island.

**For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Liz Swenson at [liz@northshorelandalliance.org](mailto:liz@northshorelandalliance.org) or call 516-922-1028.**

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**JOIN US!**  
North Shore Land Alliance  
Annual Members Meeting  
Saturday, November 7, 2020



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