

NEWS FROM MASHOMACK PRESERVE | FALL/WINTER | 2018

Mashomack depends on all of us.

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The Nature Conservancy is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) international membership organization. Its mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

The Nature Conservancy meets all of the Standards for Charity Accountability established by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance is a national charity watchdog affiliated with the Better Business Bureau.

Director's Note



Dear Friends of Mashomack,

Just over a year ago, my family relocated from East Hampton to Mashomack Preserve. I remember my children, Jade and Jasper, clambering over the boxes to get outside and explore their new 2,039-acre backyard. I'm thrilled at the idea that Mashomack will inspire a life-long appreciation of nature for my kids and for the other young visitors who experience this enchanted place.

Connecting kids to nature is a key tenet of The Nature Conservancy's work—and especially true of Mashomack Preserve. This summer marked the 30th Anniversary of our popular Environmental Education Program led by Cindy Belt. Hosting more students than ever before, the program enabled kids to hike in the woods, muddle in the marshes, paddle in canoes and kayaks, and create nature art. And it's our goal to continue to grow the Preserve as an educational resource.

Mashomack is also evolving to serve as an important research hub so that we can better understand the bigger picture of what's happening to coastal environments throughout the region. Our Manor House hosts scientists of all disciplines who are studying the health of forests and coastal marshes, water quality, and a variety of species such as bats, bluebirds and tree swallows.

In that vein, we have hired new team member Deb Bellomo as Mashomack Preserve's Guest Relations Assistant to fulfill our vision of Mashomack as a Living Laboratory, so that we're always ready to welcome students, researchers and other explorers. Likewise, we are excited to share with visitors the amazing work of The Nature Conservancy to conserve the lands and waters on which life depends—across New York and around the world.

All of these new and exciting changes would not be possible without the ongoing support of friends like you. For that, I thank you.

With warm regards,

Jeremy Samuelson
Preserve Director



Celebrate the Nature of the Season!

Join us at our

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

on Saturday December 8, 2018

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at the Mashomack Manor House

Egg Nog • Mulled Cider • Light Refreshments

Caroling • Crafts for Kids



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0.5
trees preserved
for future

472.1 gal.
water saved

48.3 lbs.
solid waste
not generated

158.4 lbs.
CO₂ prevented

A Love of Mashomack Passed Down the Generations

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF TEACHING YOUTH

Thirteen year-old Gabriella Clark leaves her cell phone at home and bikes down the winding road to Mashomack's Visitor Center. Unlike most of her peers, Gabriella revels in the chance to leave technology behind and explore nature. She's passionate about the outdoors, conservation and animals. Also unique to Gabriella is that she's the first "second generation" youth assistant in Mashomack Preserve's Environmental Education Program.

Founded 30 years ago, Mashomack's Environmental Education program is for kids in grades 3 through 7, and gives youngsters hands-on opportunities to learn about nature. Alumni of the program, like Gabriella, can come back as youth assistants—which is something her mother Nicole did some 20 years ago.

Starting in 1999, Nicole was a youth assistant for six years. She recounts, "Being a counselor with the Mashomack education program was a huge part of my summer and a family tradition. I always looked forward to getting together there with my friends, my brother and cousins, who were also youth assistants."

Nicole fondly reflects on leading hikes and paddles, where kids learned about Mashomack's woods and waters during the early days of this popular education program. "Although the roles are reversed and you are teaching the younger kids, you always learn new things and continue to be involved in the activities, from making your own piece of art to kayaking and exploring the marsh. The youth assistants are not only helping, but also doing."

Now a lawyer in Queens, New York, Nicole relishes those summers spent on Shelter Island. "When I was growing up, we spent the entire summer outside riding our bikes, going to Mashomack, swimming, playing whiffle ball, and just hanging out, but it doesn't seem like kids really do that anymore. Mashomack and the summer program is so special because it introduces children to nature at a young age." She's thrilled that her daughter has been able to share this experience.

Clearly Mashomack's Environmental Education Program has made a mark; Gabriella wants to work with animals when she grows up. In the interim, she plans to be a youth assistant for many years and can't wait until her younger cousins are old enough to start the program, thus keeping alive a family tradition that will hopefully perpetuate for generations to come.



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Gabriella Clark (far right) is the first "second generation" Youth Assistant in Mashomack's Environmental Education Program. Gabriella shares the love of nature instilled by her great grandparents, John and Marcia Byington, who have supported The Nature Conservancy's work for decades. Starting in the 1990s, they made certain that 12 of their grandchildren (one of whom is Gabriella's mom, Nicole) were able to attend Mashomack's popular summer Environmental Education program.



COMING SOON:
Mashomack's 2019
Winter and Spring Program
and Event Schedule.
Visit [nature.org/Mashomack](https://www.nature.org/Mashomack)

The world we depend on depends on us.

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Success on the Wing

PLOVER CHICK FLEDGES FROM MASHOMACK PRESERVE

This summer, Mashomack's coast was home to a pair of nesting Piping Plover who successfully fledged a chick—a feat that hasn't been recorded here in a number of years.

The Piping Plover is a small, federally endangered shorebird that breeds in North America in only three geographic regions: the Atlantic Coast, the Northern Great Plains and the Great Lakes. Due to its specialized habitat of wide sandy beaches, the Plover has been losing nesting ground from habitat destruction.

Mashomack's seasonal stewards put up an enclosure to protect the nesting site from predators (like raccoon and fox) and vigilantly observed the birds each week for two months.

“We are especially grateful to have seen this Plover chick survive to maturity,” said steward Taylor Hendrickson. “When it comes to a threatened species, the survival of each and every bird is important.”



© Taylor Hendrickson