



legacy

SUMMER 2018

Focusing on the Future

*Creating a World Where
People and Nature Thrive*

Dear Legacy Club Member,

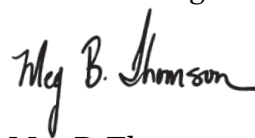
Authentic relationships require humility, vulnerability and an open mind. If we want to enjoy meaningful, enduring connections with each other, we must work at it, every day. These same principles also apply to how we should interact with nature if we expect it to sustain us.

As one of the more than 26,000 people who are a part of our Legacy Club, your commitment to this natural reciprocity is evident. Your connection to the elements, the flora and fauna, and the lands and waters will carry forward into the hearts and minds of generations to come.

In this issue of *Legacy*, you will read how The Nature Conservancy finds solutions to meet the needs of nature and people. We are restoring oyster reefs while helping families retain their way of life in Hong Kong, employing women to remove thirsty invasive plants in Cape Town, South Africa, and developing a multitude of innovative strategies to give wildlife safe passage.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Legacy Club, we strive to honor your relationship with nature and the Conservancy. Together, we can respect the cycles, address the struggles and study the changing circumstances that are influencing nature so that we can realize a shared future of hope and vitality.

With sincere gratitude,



Meg B. Thomson
Legacy Club Manager

THE
LEGACY
CLUB **25** YEARS

MEET YOUR *Legacy Club* REPRESENTATIVES



Meg B. Thomson
Legacy Club Manager



John Stapleton
Legacy Club Stewardship Manager



Allison Murdock Haslam
Gift Planning Stewardship Manager



Warren Miskell
Legacy Club Stewardship Manager



Kelsey Pence
Legacy Club Coordinator

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Despite its name, Hong Kong's Pearl River Delta has very few oysters left. The Conservancy is working with partners and local communities to change that.
© Justine E. Hausheer/The Nature Conservancy

A Culture of Collaboration

The Lunar New Year is a time of celebration for families in Hong Kong. They voice their hopes for the coming months and prepare traditional foods including dried oysters, which are considered a symbol of prosperity and good fortune.

For 700 years, people who farmed and harvested oysters around this small island territory did indeed receive prosperity and good fortune. But today, rapid industrialization and overwhelming population growth have put pressure on nature and traditional ways of life. “Oysters clean water, and their reefs provide shelter and food for the thousands of marine species found here,” says Marine Thomas, The Nature Conservancy’s marine project manager in Hong Kong. “Unfortunately, the vast majority of

natural oyster reefs have been overharvested and degraded, and interest in aquaculture is drastically declining. If we want healthy marine habitats and oysters to eat, we need collaborative solutions.”

To find them, Conservancy scientists who work to restore oyster populations around the world came to Hong Kong. They launched pilot projects with partners and people who have farmed oysters for generations. “We were able to make fast progress and avoid some mistakes because of the collective expertise of our scientists,” Thomas says. “This work could influence policy and practice for all of China and beyond while helping families retain their connection to the waters and bounty of their homeland.”

► LEARN MORE at [NATURE.ORG/HKOYSTER](https://www.nature.org/hkoyster).

“We were able to make fast progress and avoid some mistakes because of the collective expertise of our scientists.”



Above: A dry reservoir outside of Cape Town, South Africa; Below: Louise Stafford © Tate Drucker (two photos)

Our Goal: Zero Zero Water Days

From above, Cape Town, South Africa, seems to have it all. This shining metropolis on the southernmost tip of the continent rises between vivid ocean waters and green mountain peaks. But on the ground, there's palpable tension—because of the looming possibility of Day Zero.

That ominous moniker refers to when the city's water pipes run dry. At one point in the spring of 2018, Day Zero was predicted to be just weeks away. "Luckily, Day Zero is no longer expected in 2018 because people are abiding by severe water restrictions, and the city is taking other actions to save and reclaim water," says Louise Stafford, The Nature Conservancy's director of water funds in South Africa.

People are desperately conserving this most precious of commodities, with the city's almost 4 million residents being asked to use just 50 liters



per person per day—far less than the amount of water used for one average shower in the United States. But in the long run, those efforts won't be enough.

"Water demand is outstripping supply," Stafford says. "Declining rainfall over several years, an average annual population growth of 2.6 percent and watershed degradation from such problems as the proliferation of invasive plant species have gotten us to this point."

The greater Cape Town region loses up to 38 billion liters per year (equal to about two months of Cape Town's water supply) because invasive plants use more water than native species. To reduce water losses, the Conservancy is supporting local efforts to remove thirsty invasive trees such as Australian acacias, eucalyptus and pines. These non-native species were originally introduced for

timber harvest and dune stabilization, but they have spread to areas that farmers, communities and industries rely on for water. To address this problem, the Conservancy trained and is funding—with support from the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation—a team of 14 local women to remove the undesirable plants in specific locations. Every day, the team cuts enormous piles of trees and saplings as part of the pilot project on the Atlantis aquifer in a race to minimize the loss of water.

“These efforts to remove invasives from the areas directly tied to surface and groundwater sources will improve the capture of runoff and replenish aquifers,” Stafford says. “But we also want to plan smarter for the years to come. Studies have shown that restoring watersheds is more cost-effective in securing water supply over the long term than other methods, such as desalination.”

That’s why the Conservancy has launched the Greater Cape Town Water Fund. In general, water fund agreements enable downstream water users to jointly invest in upstream land conservation and restoration to improve water quality and regulate supply. Over the past 15 years, the Conservancy has helped establish 34 water funds worldwide and currently has dozens in development. These funds address water sustainability for communities while protecting nature. This approach rings true in the region around Cape Town; the area is home to an astounding 9,500 plant species, 70 percent of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Stafford says, “Through the Greater Cape Town Water Fund, we are bringing the public and private sector together to address the complexities of long-term water security so that people and nature can thrive.”

- ▶ Lessons learned from water funds in Africa will influence our work to better manage water resources around the world. FIND OUT MORE at [NATURE.ORG/AFRICA-WATER](https://www.nature.org/africa-water).



Above, from top: Milana Apollis at her home; Workers remove invasive plants © Tate Drucker (two photos)

RAIN CATCHERS

The joyful singing and chatter of Milana Apollis and her co-workers fill the air as they ruthlessly chop and remove invasive trees.

“The drought has affected me a lot,” Apollis says. “This is an income for me. I can now provide for my mom and my son.” Water shortages disproportionately impact people living in poverty. Unemployment rates in the greater Cape Town area run as high as 22 percent. All of the women hired to remove invasive plants are from local communities where women do not regularly work outside the home. “But the greater effect is also the positivity in taking out the invasive species that are destroying all the water resources,” says Apollis.

NATURE BRIEFS

Wisconsin || The Nature Conservancy recently purchased 362 acres of wild coastal boreal forest that connects protected lands and will almost double the size of a popular state natural area in Door County on Lake Michigan. The land will be open to the public for bird-watching, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Protecting this property will aid in the recovery of federally threatened species such as dwarf lake iris and northern long-eared bats.

▶ [NATURE.ORG/WI_DOORCOUNTY](https://www.nature.org/wi_doorcounty)

New Mexico || Two crews from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps worked alongside Nature Conservancy staff and other partners to learn about the importance of native plants and trees. The crew members, from underserved neighborhoods in Albuquerque, participated in the paid, residential program to help restore natural water filtration by controlling invasive species and assessing the health of the city's trees. The program is part of the Conservancy's growing involvement in transforming urban landscapes into sustainable, resilient places.

▶ [NATURE.ORG/RMYOUTH](https://www.nature.org/rmyouth)

Illinois || For years, Paul and Carol Soderholm worked to return their property—an old apple orchard and agricultural fields next to the White Pines Forest State Park in northern Illinois—back into a native oak woodland and prairie. In 2017, the Soderholms donated the land to The Nature Conservancy. They will continue to help steward this special natural area, now named the Edward F. Vassallo Land and Water Reserve in honor of Carol's son who passed away at the age of 44.

▶ [LEARN MORE](https://www.nature.org/realestate) about gifts of real estate at [NATURE.ORG/REALESTATE](https://www.nature.org/realestate).



Above, from top: Marsh marigolds at Baileys Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands in Wisconsin © Kari Hagenow/The Nature Conservancy; A Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew assesses urban tree health © The Nature Conservancy; Carol and Paul Soderholm © Dee Hudson

Q&A: Helping Nature and People

Stephanie Wear is a marine ecologist, conservation strategy advisor and global spokesperson for The Nature Conservancy. Her work focuses on reducing threats to coral reefs and ocean ecosystems, with an emphasis on how the fates of people and reefs are intertwined. She holds a doctorate in marine sciences.

You grew up in rural horse country in northern Virginia—that’s a ways from the ocean! What led you to pursue a career in marine science?

I chose to study coral reefs because they’re fun! If you’ve ever seen a coral reef, there’s so much color, so many different animals and plants—it’s awesomely overwhelming. I didn’t have a lot of ocean exposure growing up, but it was profound when I did.



Stephanie Wear © Karine Aigner

cannot manage the volume when it rains. And in any developing country or island nation, with very few exceptions, raw sewage is routinely discharged directly into the ocean; in the Caribbean, for example, about 85 percent of sewage is untreated. The excessive nutrients and toxins—petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, endocrine disruptors—are a toxic cocktail for corals and other sea life.

Coral reefs are rare, taking up less than 0.1 percent of the ocean floor. Why are they so important?

Reefs are like underwater cities, home to an astonishing 25 percent of all marine life. They’re where all the action is happening and they’re extraordinarily important to the ecological function of the ocean. From a human perspective, at least half a billion people depend on reefs directly for food, jobs and other services. And communities are able to exist in coastal areas because reefs break the energy from waves and reduce erosion. They also provide benefits, such as life-saving medicines, to people who don’t live anywhere near the ocean.

As much as we need them, coral reefs are critically threatened. Climate change is a huge factor, as are overfishing and habitat destruction, but a lot of your work has focused on pollution from sewage.

Yes. People assume their sewage is getting treated. But even in a developed country like the United States, we dump a lot of raw, untreated sewage into the environment because our systems

Yuck. That can’t be great for people, either.

No, it isn’t. There’s a human health problem—when the environment gets polluted it makes people sick—and a human dignity problem when people don’t have access to adequate sanitation facilities.

What is the Conservancy doing?

This is not exclusively an environmental issue, or a human health issue, or a development issue. We all need to work together because we each bring different areas of expertise and resources to the table. As a global leader in conservation, the Conservancy is acting as a major player in that collaboration across sectors. I’m part of a new working group, a sort of brain trust of scientists and practitioners, looking to deliver nature-based solutions for wastewater treatment. By using natural infrastructure, such as constructed wetlands, nature is no longer just a victim of the problem—it becomes part of the solution.

► READ MORE about Stephanie and her work at [NATURE.ORG/STEPHWEAR](https://www.nature.org/stephwear).

Removing Barriers for Wildlife

Imagine trying to drive to an important errand—but being stopped by an impassible fence in the middle of the road. Or returning home after a long day to find the door of your home inaccessible, ten feet off the ground. Those are the kinds of barriers that confront wildlife every day.

The Nature Conservancy brings science and ingenuity to the task of helping wildlife access the habitat they need. Alissa Rafferty, the Conservancy’s wildlife connectivity project manager in the Adirondacks, says a multi-faceted approach is the key to making sure animals can get around safely.

“Land protection provides steppingstones so wildlife can move within quality habitat,” Rafferty says. “Building wildlife crossings into transportation infrastructure protects wildlife and people. Working with communities on land-use planning can steer development away from sensitive wildlife areas. And collaborating with landowners helps us promote better land management practices that benefit wildlife while making property more resilient and sustainable.”

Rafferty says the Conservancy aims to spread the reach of this work into business practices and local government decision-making. “We don’t want to be the only ones leading this kind of work,” she says. “The aspiration is that practices like constructing wildlife crossings will become business as usual for agencies like highway departments—that the needs of fish and wildlife are incorporated into future development and upgrades.”

This work is more important now than ever: climate change is forcing species to shift their home ranges to find food and shelter, to reach spawning grounds and to safely raise their young. According to Rafferty, “We must continue learning from our efforts and adapting to inevitable changes as new pressures arise.”



Above, from top: Alissa Rafferty © Kurt Gardner; A bobcat tries to cross a road © Gordon Ellmers; Raccoons use a CritterCrossing™ © The Nature Conservancy. Opposite, from top: Installing a CritterCrossing™ © Kurt Gardner; An Etowah darter © Bill Harbin; A pronghorn safely crosses under a barbed wire fence © The Nature Conservancy

- ▶ Connecting habitat is one of the many ways the Conservancy works to ensure people and nature can thrive together. **LEARN MORE** at **NATURE.ORG**.



NEW YORK

Wildlife attempting to cross roads can end in disaster—for the animals and motorists. In the Adirondacks, the Conservancy and the New York State Department of Transportation worked together to install a steel mesh walkway bolted inside a large drainage pipe under a busy road. Structures like this CritterCrossing™ can play a critical role in helping animals like bobcats avoid harm and access the habitat they need throughout their lives. [nature.org/nycritters](https://www.nature.org/nycritters)



GEORGIA

Over time, water erodes the streambed around culverts—pipes that allow creeks and streams to flow under roads—making it difficult for fish like tiny, endangered Etowah darters to access the habitat they need to cool off, feed and spawn. The Conservancy worked with many partners to construct a bridge over Pegamore Creek, a tributary of the Upper Coosa River Basin, which provides drinking water to some metro Atlanta residents. Now, darters and other wildlife are moving more freely, and the bridge has also improved access to nearby homes and a recreation area that is popular among local hunters and hikers. [nature.org/pegamore](https://www.nature.org/pegamore)



MONTANA

Pronghorn seasonally migrate more than 200 miles each way between Canada and Montana. They are capable of jumping, but not high enough to clear the barbed wire fences that stretch for thousands of miles across the western United States. They instead try to go below and regularly become entangled or hurt. Working with researchers, Conservancy scientists developed simple methods to allow the animals to cross under fences, like using an inexpensive carabiner to clip together the two bottom wires to create an opening that is higher off the ground. The Conservancy is now collaborating with landowners to remove and modify fencing so pronghorn can roam without harm. [nature.org/friendlyfences](https://www.nature.org/friendlyfences)

“Building wildlife crossings into transportation infrastructure protects wildlife and people.”

ALISSA RAFFERTY



“Supporting nature is a great investment in every sense of the word. The charitable gift approach allows you to support conservation in the future while taking care of yourself today.”

MANFRED KRAUSE

“A gift for now can support now. But legacy annuities are gifts for the future.”

DENISE CALDWELL



A Gift That Pays You Back

Great news! Payment rates for charitable gift annuities just increased, making them an even more appealing giving option for many donors.

On July 1, payment rates went up for the first time since 2012. Charitable gift annuities are a great way to further your financial goals and help protect nature’s future.

How do charitable gift annuities work?

You donate cash, securities or other assets valued at \$10,000 or more to The Nature Conservancy and receive a lifetime of payments in return. Your gift will be used to support critical conservation work in the future.

Charitable gift annuities have many benefits:

- You or a beneficiary receive income for life.
- You reduce your tax burden.
- You will help protect the lands and waters you love for generations to come.

To learn more, contact our experts.

877-812-3698 | legacy@tnc.org

[nature.org/annuity](https://www.nature.org/annuity)

Age	Rate	Annuity	Tax Deduction
60	4.7%	\$470	\$3,195
65	5.1%	\$510	\$3,565
70	5.6%	\$560	\$4,016
75	6.2%	\$620	\$4,575
80	7.3%	\$730	\$4,936
85	8.3%	\$830	\$5,577
88+	8.9%	\$890	\$6,007+

The figures above are sample rates for a \$10,000 gift for a single beneficiary and are for illustration purposes only. The deduction is variable and based on the highest available monthly IRS discount rate.

Above, left to right: Mojave Desert scrublands at Red Rock State Park in Arizona, where landowners and conservation groups are working together to protect a 50-mile wildlife corridor © Ian Shive; Manfred Krause and Denise Caldwell © Courtesy of Manfred Krause and Denise Caldwell

Ted Robb

From Childhood Memories to Climate Leadership



Ted Robb and his grandson
© Minney Robb

Ted Robb first discovered his love of nature in his own imagination. “When I was a tiny child, my mother read the entire Winnie-the-Pooh series to me,” says Robb. “I developed quite an interest in how these animals live in a hundred-acre wood, and how the forest

is such an integral part of their lives.” He explored his version of that idyllic literary forest—the woods and waters around his childhood home outside Philadelphia.

Over the years, Robb traveled the world, and his appreciation for forests and wildlife continued. He has supported The Nature Conservancy since 1982, including designating a portion of his IRA as a deferred gift to the visionary yet practical conservation work happening in Pennsylvania, such as the Working Woodlands program. “We work with landowners to place conservation easements on their property,” Robb says. “We fund the survey so they can get carbon credits and help them obtain certifications indicating that their forests are responsibly managed. Landowners retain ownership and support the

local sawmill industry while providing habitat and protecting the natural value of the land.”

Robb, who has served as a trustee in Pennsylvania for more than 14 years, believes the Conservancy is unique because it shares knowledge to help tackle complex global problems like climate change. With his support, the Pennsylvania board of trustees pushed the Conservancy to sharpen its focus on the issue. “We wrote and adopted a resolution to address climate change,” he says. “I am proud that our local action influenced the organization’s growing leadership on the most important issue facing our world.”

For Robb, leading actions to adapt to and halt climate change is critical to ensuring that future generations have opportunities to experience the wonders of nature. He served as the Trustee Legacy Ambassador in Pennsylvania for many years, sharing his commitment and passion for conservation with others to inspire them to get involved. “It’s an easy sell,” he says. “If you give to the Conservancy, you know your support will be invested in the future of the world. What better legacy can you leave than that?”

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- ▶ DISCOVER how you can share your love of nature by dedicating a portion of an IRA to the Conservancy at [NATURE.ORG/IRA](https://www.nature.org/ira).

“If you give to the Conservancy, you know your support will be invested in the future of the world. What better legacy can you leave than that?”

TED ROBB



The Conservancy is a BBB Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity—meaning that we meet all of the alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability.

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We Need Each Other

When we take care of nature, we take care of ourselves. Look inside to explore how The Nature Conservancy is working to secure safe passage for native wildlife, safeguard water for growing communities and bring science and innovation to the challenges facing our world.

Find out more in this edition of *Legacy*.