

NEWS FROM MASHOMACK PRESERVE | WINTER 2020

Mashomack depends on all of us.

The Nature
Conservancy



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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 Message



Dear Supporter,

Paddle Mashomack's wetlands or hike the maritime forest and you might think these 2,000 acres are for nature alone. But the story of Mashomack is actually a story about people.

Forty years ago, the Shelter Island community and The Nature Conservancy joined forces to protect Mashomack as a place where *nature* thrives. But today we see that the world is changing in unprecedented ways and that humanity's course is unsustainable.

Moving forward we know protecting nature means creating a world where people and nature thrive, together.

The Nature Conservancy's successes—clean air, drinkable water, thriving habitats—are founded in science. And they are possible because of our partnerships with the community and our amazing volunteers.

Each year, hundreds of volunteers share thousands of hours of their time, passion and expertise with Mashomack. Volunteers are the backbone of our work, creating partnerships with schools, veterans' organizations, researchers, municipal leaders, community groups. Together we are growing the next generation of conservation leaders.

The story of Mashomack is a story of nature *and* people. Our fates are linked. The world we depend on, depends on us—and we depend on you.

Thank you for your support.

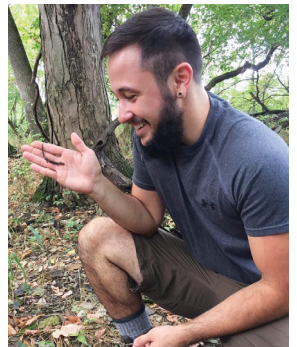
Jeremy Samuelson
Director, Mashomack Preserve

MASHOMACK WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBER

Alex Navarro is the Preserve's Conservation and Outreach Manager.

Alex has hit the ground running, familiarizing himself with all aspects of Mashomack as well as broader Conservancy programs and objectives. He aligns our research, education, and stewardship programs to achieve our vision of Mashomack as a living laboratory.

He received a BS in Environmental Science from SUNY Brockport and a PhD in Biology from the University of Maryland. His study focused on conserving amphibians and reptiles, and the places they live.



When asked about his favorite part of Mashomack, his response is simply "so many turtles."

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Volunteers at Mashomack

Throughout the year, Mashomack's robust series of events requires the help and assistance of hundreds of volunteers. From greeting friends and families at our Visitor Center, to monitoring bluebird nest boxes, our dedicated volunteers offer their time, enthusiasm and skills with Mashomack.

Our annual Dinner Dance—our most concentrated volunteer effort—is run by community members like you who pitch in to get involved. Volunteers of all ages, from all over New York, and up and down the east coast, including Florida, help with setting-up, cooking and food preparation, cleaning, welcoming and serving food to guests, setting up tables and more.

Dinner Dance volunteers by the numbers

139

total volunteers over five days, working a total of 965 hours.

1,025

miles traveled by one of our volunteers to pitch in.

60

year gap between the oldest and youngest helper.

36

years longest serving volunteer.

Winter/Spring 2020 Program Schedule

Programs require pre-registration. Unless noted, enjoy our programs for a free-will donation. For more information, call 631-749-4219 or e-mail MashomackPreserve@tnc.org.

While our programs may be of interest to all ages, please note the main audience intended. If you have a question about the suitability of a program for a particular participant, please call. Some programs require a waiver.

- ADULT – or mature children ages 12 and up ● FAMILY – all ages, adults must accompany children
● KIDS – appropriate ages vary, children can attend without an adult, adults welcome to attend

January

● WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 9 AM-4 PM RESOLVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

What sustainable actions can you take this year to make a difference in our changing world? Come on a self-guided walk of the 1.5-mile Red Trail to find clues and solve a mystery message.

● SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 7-8:30 PM FULL MOON FIELDS WALK

Walk the meadows of Mashomack on a calm winter night. Bundle up and enjoy the open grasslands and a view of Shelter Island Sound by the light of the full moon. Enjoy the stars and listen to nature's nightlife.

● SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2-3 PM FUN AT THE FEEDER

Mashomack's busy bird feeders are a favorite spot for visitors—both avian and human alike. Learn to identify the common birds which visit in the winter. Great opportunity for pictures so bring your camera.

February

BOOK IN THE WOODS:

OWL MOON by Jane Yolen

"If you go owling you have to be quiet."

This Caldecott Medal winner of a child and father finding an owl on a winter night is a family favorite.

● SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 10 AM-NOON

SIGNS OF LIFE IN WINTER

Come see what is out and about in the "dead of winter." We will hike, look for tracks, search for birds and learn how animals survive the cold season.

● SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1-4 PM MASHOMACK POINT: A TOUR OF THE KATHARINE ORDWAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

Dedicated to a visionary and generous nature lover, Mashomack Point is opened for a guided walk just once a year. We'll explore this area's unique woodlands, kettles, and fields, culminating with a breathtaking view of Northwest Harbor. Dress warmly.

● SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1-2:30 PM FOOTPRINTS ON THE LAND: THE NICOLL LEGACY

Join a truck tour and short hike to discover the traces of over 200 years of Nicoll family history in Mashomack's meadows. Visit the Nicoll family cemetery, find the foundations of buildings in Miss Annie Nicoll's "Big House" and learn about the family's lingering impacts on Mashomack's land today.

March

BOOK IN THE WOODS:

CARL AND THE MEANING OF LIFE by Deborah Freedman

What is a worm good for? Follow Carl as he learns that everything has a purpose and connection to the world.

● SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 11 AM-1 PM SOUPER SUNDAY

Hike the 6-mile green trail, stopping halfway at the Mashomack Manor House for a cup of homemade soup. A perfect combination to celebrate the return of lighter days. Soup available from 11 AM - 1 PM.

● SATURDAY, MARCH 14 10 AM-NOON

TRAIL DAY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Maintaining Mashomack's miles of trails takes a lot of work. Pitch in to help widen trails or spread wood chips to protect tree roots and provide safe walking. Bring work gloves. Water and snack provided. Community service hours available.

● SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 4-5 PM MASHOMACK'S NESTBOX TRAIL AND THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Ever see a live bluebird? How about eggs in a nest, or live baby birds? Learn how Mashomack is restoring bluebird populations and to help this iconic New York State bird. Volunteer for our Nestbox Project—a guaranteed wonderful experience. Refreshments served.

● THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 7 AM - 7 PM VERNAL EQUINOX: DAWN TO DUSK HIKING

Celebrate the first day of spring: Trails will be open from dawn to dusk for self-guided walks. Come enjoy the normally off-limits hours!

● SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2-3:30 PM WORLD WATER DAY: SEARCH FOR SALAMANDER EGGS

Mashomack's kettle ponds and vernal pools are excellent spots for amphibians to lay their eggs. Join salamander expert Alex Novarro in an off-trail search for frogs, salamanders and newts.



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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT
NATURE.ORG/MASHOMACK



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April

BOOK IN THE WOODS: HERE WE ARE: NOTES FOR LIVING ON PLANET EARTH by Oliver Jeffers

Jeffers explains the wonders of the Earth in a picture book while offering sound advice for all ages.

● **SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 7-8:30 PM NEARLY FULL MOON WALK**

Will it be warm with the sounds of spring peepers or cool with the reminder that spring is still new? Join a guided walk in the woods under the first bright moon of spring.

● **THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2-3:30 PM KID'S SPRING BREAK WORKSHOP: SIGNS OF SPRING**

Come see what is out and about in the early days of spring. We'll hike, search for greening plants and awakening animals, and make a snack.

● **SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 10 AM-NOON SPRING SHORELINE SPRUCE UP**

Winter washes up lots of flotsam onto our shores. This spring beach cleanup will ready the beach for our summer plants and beach nesting birds. Bring gloves. Community service hours available.

● **SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1-3 PM EARTH DAY: 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**

Mashomack will be celebrating Earth Day's 50th anniversary with food, fun, and music. Come ready to get your hands dirty and make a difference.

● **SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 10 AM-NOON TRAIL DAY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

See March 14 description.

May

BOOK IN THE WOODS: LOST IN THE WOODS by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick

A newly born fawn is being watched by other forest animals. Is it lost?

● **SATURDAY, MAY 2, 11 AM-12:30 PM IMPRESSIONS OF NATURE**

Join artist Lora Lomuscio along Mashomack's shores to identify local seashells and appreciate their unique beauty and growth patterns. We'll learn about making molds of natural objects, like shells, in clay and make a pendant to take home.

● **SATURDAY, MAY 9, 10-11 AM BIRDING BASICS ON THE BOARDWALK**

New to watching birds and enjoy being outdoors? Come to the accessible Visitor Center boardwalk for coffee or tea and muffins. Use our bird guides and binoculars to see who might be winging by.

● **SUNDAY, MAY 10, 7 AM MIGRATION MEETUP: BIRDING WITH FRIENDS**

The preserve opens early for birders and friends to get into the woods to see what might be winging by during the celebrated spring migration.

● **SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10 AM-NOON SPRING MEADOWS**

The open grasslands of Mashomack provide an oasis for sun-loving species. Join Clark Mitchell to see what is greening up. Perhaps spot some early flowers and chance upon a bluebird.

● **SUNDAY, MAY 17, 7 AM MIGRATION MEETUP: BIRDING WITH FRIENDS**

See May 10 description.

● **SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2-3:30 PM SNAPPERS AND TERRAPINS AND BOX TURTLES, OH MY!**

Join reptile expert Sarah Bailey Novarro on World Turtle Day to meet some of Peconic Bay's turtles and learn about their lives. You can make a difference by joining a citizen science program to help nesting turtles survive.

● **SUNDAY, MAY 24, 4-7 PM MASHOMACK OPEN HOUSE AND HAULING A SEINE**

Join us on the lawn of the Bass Creek Cottage with your family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the arrival of summer. Learn about our wildlife, nature programs, guided hikes, research projects, and how to become a member. You may also celebrate the East End's traditional seafaring heritage by helping to pull in a 300' haul seine (fishing net). Striped bass, bluefish, porgies, and several species of crab may be caught.

● **SATURDAY, MAY 30, 3-4:30 PM HEALTHY FORESTS, HEALTHY PEOPLE**

Mashomack's forests are always changing, influenced by climate and pressure from deer. Take an eye-opening truck tour to our deer exclosures and forest research plots to learn more about how everything is connected.

Mashomack's New Trustee Stephanie Needham Sareyani

We caught up with Mashomack's newest trustee, Stephanie Needham Sareyani. A familiar face in the Shelter Island community, Stephanie served as a K-12 Art Teacher for the past 28 years. Mashomack is thrilled to welcome her—and her new perspectives—and looks forward to her intimate involvement with The Nature Conservancy.

What is it about Shelter Island and its natural beauty that appeals to you?

As most Islanders know, I came to Shelter Island as a child, vacationing as most do. My parents loved the city life but my early urban experiences propelled me toward both the seashore and the woods. What I found was that Shelter Island had both—and I was hooked. As an artist, even at a young age, I was awe struck with the Island's magnificence, and as I was growing up I knew it would need to be protected from urban development.

How did you get involved at Mashomack?

For the last 28 years, I have served the Shelter Island community as their K-12 Art Teacher. I created units of study and displays made by our students to teach the community to learn and protect our natural surroundings. In the summers I had the good fortune to volunteer with the Conservancy's Environmental Education program and came as a visiting artist in July and August.

Mashomack and the people supporting The Nature Conservancy seem to work tirelessly to protect nature. I've learned so much from the Conservancy team and have been happy to volunteer and to share my specific strengths over the years—that being Art Education. It has always been an honor to be involved with such a passionate community.

What are your hopes for the future when it comes to nature?

One of my main goals is to learn more about how we can protect our water, our forests, and of course the nature that depends on all of these to survive. As our island population grows, I believe we need to teach every person, child through adult, how to respect, and consequently protect our natural environment. Change and growth are inevitable, how we steer it is the key. I hope to be a major influence in that aspect.

“One of my main goals is to learn more about how we can protect our water, our forests, and of course the nature that depends on all of these to survive.”

– Stephanie Needham Sareyani



Making History Through Conservation and Policy

NEW CONSERVATION FINANCE TOOLS PROTECT MORE LAND THAN EVER

At 253,000 acres, the Cumberland Forest Project, one of the Conservancy's largest-ever conservation efforts in the eastern United States, protects sweeping forest landscapes in the Central Appalachians, across parts of Southwest Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Safeguarding this vast stretch of forest tackles climate change on two fronts: by storing millions of tons of carbon dioxide and by connecting a migratory corridor that scientists believe to be one of North America's most important "escape routes" as animal species, from warblers to bobcats, shift their ranges to cooler climates.

And there's another boon.

Much of the Cumberland Forest Project was structured as an investment fund by the Conservancy's NatureVest division—a team that leverages private investment capital to conserve at a greater scale and a faster pace. By carefully managing these forests under Forest Stewardship Council certification and selling the carbon offsets produced, the forests' health will improve while generating revenue for our conservation-minded investors, local foresters and mills.

This model also has implications for conservation in the years to come. Our science has shown that people and nature can thrive into the future but only if we act now. By managing forests in a way that is both ecologically beneficial and economically sound, the Cumberland project demonstrates an important tool in achieving that future.

NEW YORK PASSES LANDMARK CLIMATE LEGISLATION



New York State recently passed the most powerful climate legislation in the United States. Our policy team spent long days at the Capitol, working closely with conservation partners and elected officials to craft the new law: the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. It will drastically cut carbon pollution, safeguard New York's clean energy programs, and invest in under-resourced communities. This new bill mandates that New York reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, 70 percent renewable energy by 2030, and an equitable transition to a low-carbon future—showing the nation how to effectively fight climate change.



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Holiday Open House

Saturday, Dec 14, 2019

2:00-5:00pm

Mulled cider, eggnog, and the good cheer of the season are the perfect complement to the Manor House festive decorations. Join in the holiday spirit with neighbors and friends, sing favorite songs and tour Mashomack's 19th century Victorian mansion, decked out in her holiday greens. Nature craft activity for kids.

For more information call 631-749-4219 or
email MashomackPreserve@tnc.org.