

NEWS FROM MASHOMACK PRESERVE | SUMMER/FALL | 2020

# Mashomack depends on all of us.

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# Director's Message



Dear Friend of Mashomack,

Forty years ago, Mashomack Preserve opened its doors and trails to the public. At the time, protecting these 2,039 acres was the largest purchase in the Conservancy's history. And it was only possible because of a genuine partnership between the community and The Nature Conservancy.

All these years later, the team at Mashomack works every day to continue and grow that partnership and to be of service to nature and people.

These last few months have brought challenges that were hard to imagine before. But they have also shown why caring for nature and people is really a single calling. With every child that walks the trails or holds a spotted salamander for the first time, we are fulfilling a promise made decades ago.

As Mashomack looks to serve the community over the next 40 years, we want to say "thank you" for being our partners.

Nature has a unique ability to bring us peace and solace. And I hope you'll turn to nature—in particular, now, in spring during its rebirth and bloom.

Please stay in touch, and join us as we celebrate the next 40 years of research, education, inspiration and partnership at Mashomack.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible legacy.

**Jeremy Samuelson**  
Director, Mashomack Preserve

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Printed on 100% PCW recycled, process chlorine-free paper, creating the following benefits:

**5.6**

# trees preserved  
for the future

**416.4**

gallons water  
saved

**808.2**

lbs. CO<sub>2</sub>  
prevented

# A Bird that Links Continents and Cultures

Summer on Long Island wouldn't be the same without osprey soaring and diving into clear waters. But just 50 years ago, only a few of these magnificent birds remained due to poisoning from DDT. Once the chemical was banned, osprey and other birds of prey like bald eagles and peregrine falcons slowly rebounded. But the osprey return wasn't always guaranteed.

Dr. Alan Poole, an ornithologist and leading osprey expert who has traveled the world studying this iconic species, first came to Mashomack in the 1970s to survey the population. "Their nests were mostly in trees, so they were more vulnerable to predators than nests built on artificial platforms elsewhere. By and large, Mashomack ospreys did poorly reproductively, mostly because their nests were not secure. That started to change when the Conservancy came in and began to shore up some nests, and build predator-proof platforms."

His research on Shelter Island helped make the case for protecting Mashomack Preserve and was key to the species recovery regionally. This rich history came full circle when Dr. Poole returned to share his latest adventures at the Mashomack Manor House last summer.

"We quickly fell into a conversation about his spending more time on the Preserve and one thing led to another," stated Jeremy Samuelson, Mashomack's Director.

Dr. Poole joined the Mashomack Board of Trustees in November and is advising the Preserve's conservation team on research.

"Forty years ago when the Shelter Island community and The Nature Conservancy joined forces to protect Mashomack, it was always about making a difference on a global scale, protecting vital habitats for threatened species and creating links to distant lands," added Samuelson. "It was always envisioned as a globally important research site and educational facility, a true community asset."

"Ospreys undergo such long-distance migrations, from Shelter Island to the Amazon every year," said Dr. Poole. "Each bird, flying alone, makes it to its own chosen spot somewhere deep in the Amazon, returning to the same bend in the same river. This is a bird that links continents and cultures."

Looking back sometimes helps us glimpse what lay ahead.

"Our job today is to make sure there is habitat, fish and people who will all thrive on Shelter Island, and in the Amazon, and around the world for the next 40 years," said Samuelson.

Nearly 260 osprey, also known as "fish hawks," have been born at Mashomack Preserve, contributing to the global comeback of this once imperiled species.  
© A. Graziano Photography



# Summer/Fall 2020 Program Schedule

Please register in advance to guarantee your spot in a program. Unless noted, enjoy our programs free-of-charge. **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

## BOOK IN THE WOODS:

### JUNE

#### HAVE YOU HEARD THE NESTING BIRD?

by Rita Gray & Kenard Pak

### JULY

#### MOONGLOW

by Peggy Dickerson

### AUGUST

#### MY AWESOME SUMMER

BY P. MANTIS author Paul Meisel

### SEPTEMBER

#### BIRD, BUTTERFLY, EEL

by James Prosek

### OCTOBER

#### SQUIRREL'S FAMILY TREE

by Beth Ferry

### NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

#### GOODBYE AUTUMN, HELLO WINTER

by Kenard Pak

## JUNE

● **FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 7:30-9:30 PM**  
**STRAWBERRY MOON HIKE**  
Guided walk to Gibson Beach to see sunset and moonrise. Two miles total, park at Manor House, bring a flashlight.

● **SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 10 AM-NOON**  
**BECOMING A NATURALIST – THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT**  
Use your smartphone to ID plants and animals instantaneously. Naturalists will teach how to use iNaturalist to identify species and contribute to scientific research.

● **SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 9-10:30 AM**  
**BLUEBIRDS AND BLUEBERRY MUFFINS**  
See the brilliant blue of New York's state bird nesting in Mashomack's meadows. Bring binoculars, portable chair. Muffins and spotting scopes provided. Adults and kids 12+.

● **SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 5:15 AM-8:30 PM**  
**SUMMER SOLSTICE STROLL**  
Greet the rising sun or watch the sunset on the longest day of the year. Enjoy a self-guided walk during extended hours.

● **SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 9 AM-NOON**  
**EXPLORING BY KAYAK**  
Spy the early greens of summer, incubating osprey and emerging marine life. Includes all equipment. Bring snacks and water, sun and bug protection. Dress to get wet. Adults & kids 12+.

● **SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 1-2:30 PM**  
**SALTY TO FRESH – DISCOVERING MARSHES AND PONDS**  
Spend International Climate Change Day exploring where salt marshes and freshwater ponds meet, see what these systems tell us about our changing world. Dress to get wet and muddy.

● **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 8-10 AM**  
**BIRDING BY CAMERA – NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Join photographers Don Bindler and Jim Colligan to watch birds mob Mashomack's mulberry trees. Take pictures, talk photography and trade tips. Bring camera, portable chair. Rain date June 28. Adults or kids 12+.



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## July

● **WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 10-10:45 AM**  
**LIBRARY IN THE WILD – IMAGINE YOUR STORY**  
Shelter Island Library at Mashomack, read a book and do a craft. Children 3+.

● **FRIDAY, JULY 3, 9-10:30 AM**  
**YOUNG NATURALISTS: MAMMAL MIA!**  
Mammals are amazing. Learn how they survive in all kinds of settings. Activities and crafts. Children 4+.

● **MONDAY-THURSDAY, JULY 6-9**  
**9 AM-2 PM**  
**KIDS' ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORERS PROGRAM**  
Hiking, muddling in a marsh, kayaking, and creating art are all part of Mashomack's summer kids' program. For kids entering grades 3-7. \$350 per child. Ample full and half scholarships available.

● **SATURDAY, JULY 11, 9 AM-10:30 AM**  
**TERRAPIN WATCH, BEACHCOMBING FOR TURTLES**  
Join the Long Island-wide effort to monitor Diamondback Terrapins, an elusive turtle living in salt marshes and nesting on the beach. Park at Manor House.

● **WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 10-10:45 AM**  
**LIBRARY IN THE WILD – IMAGINE YOUR STORY**  
Shelter Island Library at Mashomack, read a book and do a craft. Children 3+.



© Charles Gleberman



© Jim Colligan

● **FRIDAY, JULY 17, 9-10:30 AM**

**YOUNG NATURALISTS:  
POND LIFE EXPLORATION**

What can slimy critters teach us about the health of our planet? Use nets and make viewing boxes to explore the waters of Sanctuary Pond, looking for frogs, turtles and whirligig beetles. Dress to get wet and muddy. Children 4+.

● **SUNDAY, JULY 19, 10-11:30 AM**  
**WRAPPED DRIFTWOOD ART**

Join artist and Mashomack Board Member Lora Lomuscio to gather driftwood, shells and other objects to combine with yarn, wrapping and weaving to create textile art. Park at Manor House. Ages 4 to 104.

● **SATURDAY, JULY 25, 6 PM-UNTIL...**  
**MASHOMACK PRESERVE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

631.749.1001 ext. 15 or RMundy@tnc.org for information.

● **WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 10-10:45 AM**  
**LIBRARY IN THE WILD – IMAGINE YOUR STORY**

Shelter Island Library at Mashomack, read a book and do a craft. Children 3+.

● **FRIDAY, JULY 31, 9-10:30 AM**  
**YOUNG NATURALISTS:  
CREATURE FEATURE**

How do animals survive underwater? What are tails for? Can you survive only eating bugs? Explore the trails looking for fantastic creatures, then design your own amazing animal. Children 4+.

## August

● **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**  
**TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED  
SALT MARSH ECOLOGY 202**

Author, naturalist and Mashomack Board member Dr. Alan Poole leads a marsh walk and talk exploring what we've learned about salt marshes in the last 20 years. Refreshments served. Park at Manor House.

● **MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
**AUGUST 3-6, 9 AM-2 PM**  
**KIDS' ENVIRONMENTAL  
EXPLORERS PROGRAM**

See July 6 description.

● **SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 11 AM-1 PM**  
**ICE CREAM SUNDAY**

Hike the 6-mile green trail, stopping at the Manor House half-way through to make your perfect sundae. Ice cream available from 11 AM-1 PM.

● **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 10-10:45 AM**  
**LIBRARY IN THE WILD – IMAGINE YOUR STORY**

Shelter Island Library at Mashomack, read a book and do a craft. Children 3+.

● **THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 5-7:30 PM**  
**SYLVESTERS, NICOLLS, TREES & BEER**

Hear the stories of Mashomack Preserve and Sylvester Manor as revealed by their trees. Two short guided walks—one at each preserve—followed by light bites and local craft brews creek-side at Sylvester Manor. Ages 21+. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Space limited, R.S.V.P. recommended.

● **FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 9-10:30 AM**

**YOUNG NATURALISTS:  
MUDDLING IN THE MARSH**

Discover why salt marsh are the nursery of the sea. Use nets to examine marine creatures. Dress to get wet and muddy. Children 4+.

● **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 1-2:30 PM**  
**SEA TURTLE RESCUE**

Train to rescue “cold-stunned” sea turtles. New York Marine Rescue Center teaches hands-on techniques for turtle rescue.

● **MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
**AUGUST 17-20, 9 AM-2 PM**  
**KIDS' ENVIRONMENTAL  
EXPLORERS PROGRAM**

See July 6 description.

● **SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 11 AM-3 PM**  
**GREEN EXPO, SHELTER ISLAND  
AMERICAN LEGION HALL**

Conservation partners from across the region share their work. Visit the Mashomack table for hands-on displays, fun and prizes.

● **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 10-10:45 AM**  
**LIBRARY IN THE WILD – IMAGINE YOUR STORY**

Shelter Island Library at Mashomack, read a book and do a craft. Children 3+.

● **FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 9-10:30 AM**  
**YOUNG NATURALISTS:  
JOURNEY OF A BUTTERFLY**

As monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico, explore their complex lifecycle and make your own wings to bring home. Children 4+.

● **SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 10 AM-NOON**  
**CLAMS, OYSTERS AND KAYAKS**

Join marine scientist Adam Starke to paddle Mashomack's creeks and see shellfish aquaculture up close. Then sample some Mashomack-grown oysters. R.S.V.P. required.



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## September

### ● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

#### 9 AM-NOON

##### **BEACH CLEAN UP & HAUL SEINE**

Pitch in for International Coastal Cleanup Day, stay to see what's swimming in the bay, helping pull a 300-foot haul seine, a traditional fishing net. Clean up 9 to 11, haul seine 11 to noon.

Bags and gloves provided. Bring sun and bug protection, snacks and water. Dress to get wet.

### ● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

#### 10:30-NOON

##### **SAGG SWAMP SAUNTER (SAGAPONACK)**

Spot fall birds and see one of the last stands of native white cedar on Long Island while exploring with naturalist Kevin Munroe. NOTE: location in Sagaponack.

### ● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

#### 9 AM-NOON

##### **MASHOMACK POINT PADDLE**

Paddle through salt marsh while exploring the rarely seen Katherine Ordway Wildlife Refuge. Includes all necessary equipment. Bring snack and water, sun and bug protection. Dress to get wet. Adults & kids 12+. Rain/wind date Sept 27.

## October

### ● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 8-9:30 PM

#### **MOONLIGHT HIKE**

Explore the beauty of Mashomack under the Harvest Moon. Two miles total. Park at Manor House, bring a flashlight.

### ● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

#### 10:00 AM-NOON

##### **MANHANSET, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF SHELTER ISLAND**

Human history on Shelter Island stretches across millennia. Travel by truck to explore the history, artifacts and legacy of the Manhasset people. Park at Manor House.

### ● SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 11 AM-1 PM

#### **SOUPER SUNDAY**

Hike the 6-mile green trail, stopping at the Manor House half-way through for a cup of homemade vegetable soup. Soup available from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM.

### ● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 4-6 PM

##### **OYSTER TASTING AT THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Compare the brine and bite of Mashomack oysters to other local growers. Join shellfish enthusiasts for the Historical Society's annual Oyster Tasting.

### ● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 5-6:30 PM

##### **FAMILY FUN: NATURE'S HALLOWEEN TRAIL**

Arrive anytime and allow 30 minutes to meet the not-at-all-scary creatures of the wood. Adults must accompany children. Bring a flashlight. Light refreshments.

### ● SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 10-11:30 AM

#### **FALL FOLIAGE TRUCK TOUR**

Maples and tupelos burn red while sassafras flashes yellow. Tour Mashomack's fields, forests and marshes to see what colors nature offers.

## November

### ● SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 9-11 AM

#### **OTTERS AT MASHOMACK**

Join wildlife biologist Mike Bottini for a talk on river otters, identifying "sign" and getting involved in the Long Island River Otter Project. Includes short walk to check known otter spots.

### ● FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1-2 PM

#### **CREATURES OF THE NIGHT: A LIVE ANIMAL PRESENTATION**

A Quogue Wildlife Refuge naturalist brings live reptiles, owls and opossums to showcase the adaptations that let some animals thrive at night. Close up views guaranteed. Rain or shine.

## December

### ● SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2-5 PM

#### **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Welcome the holiday season with neighbors and friends. Sing carols, eat cookies and tour the 19th century Victorian Manor House. Crafts for kids of all ages.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT  
[NATURE.ORG/MASHOMACK](http://NATURE.ORG/MASHOMACK)

# By the Numbers

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### 800,000

people to date have connected to nature as they hiked Mashomack's trails.

### 240,000

youth visits to Mashomack inspired a generation of conservation champions.

### 4,000

guided walks or field trips engaged the public in our conservation work.

### 1,500

pages in three volumes, The Mashomack Preserve Study chronicles its physical, cultural, and biological treasures.

### 735

eastern bluebirds and

### 1,686

tree swallows fledged from our volunteer-driven nest box program.

### 70

research projects contributing to humanity's understanding of science and nature.

### 700

species of moths, one of which was newly discovered, live at Mashomack.

### 600

teens have assisted with our Environmental Education program.

### 259

osprey born in Mashomack Preserve, contributing to the global comeback of this once imperiled species.

© Charles Gleberman



Bluebird, New York State's bird. © Derek Rogers







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From coastal scenics to towering vistas, a trip to our website offers something for everyone. We encourage you to try something new and have a virtual visit in nature! Whether you prefer getting lost in a beautiful story, or perusing through award-winning photos on our website, virtually connect with the great outdoors. Start your adventure at [nature.org/newyork](http://nature.org/newyork) for more details.