

NEWS FROM MASHOMACK PRESERVE | SPRING/SUMMER | 2019

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 Message



Dear Supporter,

If you've hiked or paddled at Mashomack Preserve, you know what a special place it is. Winding trails traverse through woodlands and fields. Freshwater wetlands and tidal creeks connect to more than 10 miles of undeveloped coastline. Whether it's watching the sunset or walking through the woods, time spent here has tremendous benefits for one's mental, emotional and physical health.

At Mashomack, we offer the outdoor experience to some 20,000 people a year, a niche that continues to grow as our world changes around us. This summer, we'll kick off the 31st year of our ever-popular *Environmental Education Program*. Hosting more students than ever before, the program provides hands-on learning that instills a life-long love of the environment that spawns future conservation leaders.

With your support, we are offering opportunities for young professionals through internships and professional development. We're also expanding access to nature for more diverse groups, including those who have served our country, through the Conservancy's *Veterans in Nature* program.

Despite all we do, we've been asking the question: *how can we inspire our visitors to be ambassadors of nature?* To be a critical part of the conservation story on Long Island, Mashomack needs to invest more fully in its future.

In the coming months, we're developing plans to undertake a major revitalization of our Visitor's Center, upgrading all interpretative signage and exhibits. This renovated Learning Center will allow for points of connection for people of all ages and backgrounds including those who may be mobility-impaired, underserved and under-represented. A new Outdoor Education Pavilion and a resurfaced and expanded parking facility will also be constructed.

Such improvements will ensure that Mashomack remains a place where visitors are deeply connected and inspired by nature. They'll also lay the groundwork for supporting researchers, making Mashomack the perfect place where scientists can investigate the most pressing conservation challenges facing humanity.

As always, we thank you for your role in helping envision and pursue a future where nature and people thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Samuelson'.

Jeremy Samuelson
Director, Mashomack Preserve

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

3.5

trees preserved
for future

3,373.8

gal. water
saved

345.2

lbs. solid waste
not generated

1,134.1

lbs. CO₂
prevented

The Power of Nature

VETERANS SPEND TIME CONNECTING AT MASHOMACK PRESERVE

Warming themselves by the fire pit they had just built, a group of 20 veterans talked, laughed and reflected on their handiwork—and their time spent in the service. The individuals didn't know each other before they traveled from across the country to Mashomack Preserve. But they quickly became comrades as they took part in a health and wellness retreat hosted by Strongpoint Theinert Ranch and The Nature Conservancy. The weekend was meant to strengthen bonds while also providing respite in nature.

Strongpoint Theinert Ranch (STR), a nonprofit organization that hosts retreats for veterans, their families, and Gold Star Families, was founded to honor Army First Lieutenant Joseph J. Theinert of Shelter Island, who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan.

“Joe and I spent a lot of time in Mashomack over the years—it was one of his favorite places,” said Jimbo Theinert, President of STR. “Getting veterans together to help deal with the trauma and challenges of returning from

deployment was born on Shelter Island when we welcomed Joe's platoon to visit here in 2011 after they redeployed from Afghanistan.

With Theinert's legacy underpinning the weekend, veterans traversed 10 miles of Mashomack in a combination paddle and hike. They cleared a trail extending to the bluffs overlooking Bass Creek and updated another trail for wheelchair access. But most importantly, they shared stories, connected and bonded in a natural, beautiful and supportive environment.



© Anthony Graziano

The Nature Conservancy engages with veterans and military communities, hosting retreats and workshops at its preserves across the country. We are dedicated to creating a workplace culture of inclusion that helps veterans transition to civilian life and leverage the full potential of their experiences.

“As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I experienced firsthand the restorative power of nature,” said Greg Jacob, policy advisor at the Conservancy and co-lead of Veterans in Nature’s Service. “After leaving the Corps, my time in the woods, camping, hiking, and fishing played a pivotal role in my transition to civilian life. It’s a privilege to bring veterans to our preserves. These retreats bring forth a powerful exchange, for staff to learn from veterans and for veterans to learn about our mission to protect and conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.”

Spring/Summer 2019 Program Schedule

Programs require pre-registration. Unless specifically noted, enjoy our programs for a free-will donation. **Call the Mashomack Visitor Center at 631-749-4219 for further information or e-mail us at MashomackPreserve@tnc.org.** While our programs may be of interest to all ages, the color codes below identify the main audience. Please call if you have a question about the suitability of a program for a particular participant. Some programs may require a waiver form.

- 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 – A MONTHLY TRAILSIDE INSTALLATION

Walk along the Red Trail and read a story with your children as you go!

JULY

NIGHT FLIER by Elizabeth Ring

AUGUST

EXPLORERS OF THE WILD
by Cale Atkinson

SEPTEMBER

TIDY
by Emily Gravett

OCTOBER

WILD CHILD
by Lynn Plourde

NOVEMBER

WINTER IS COMING
by Tony Johnston

KIM'S CARDIO CLUB

**FIRST MONDAY & SATURDAY
JULY-NOVEMBER, 8 AM**

Join Mashomack's Kim Reilly for a brisk walk along the 1.5 mile Red Trail. This walk is designed to elevate the heart rate and improve the strength of the heart, lungs and blood vessels. We'll keep a 15 minute-mile pace so this will be a quick, early morning hike – readying you for whatever the day has in store.

July

● FRIDAY, JULY 5, 9 AM-NOON MEDICINAL PLANTS WITH SARAH SHEPHERD

Sarah is a certified herbalist and loves the variety of plants found at Mashomack. Come for a 3-mile walk through woods and fields to discover the variety of natural healing plants along the way.

● FRIDAY, JULY 5, 10:30 AM-NOON YOUNG NATURALISTS: MUDDLING IN THE MARSH

Why do salt marshes smell like rotten eggs? Discover the wonders of this habitat and why it's called the nursery of the sea. With clam rakes and seine and crab nets, we'll find marine creatures, and have fun. Come ready to get wet. Ages 4 and up.

● SATURDAY, JULY 6, 8-9 PM FAMILY FUN: FIREFLIES IN THE FIELDS

Learn about the amazing adaptations of these insects and their role in nature. Relive your summer memories or experience this childhood ritual for the first time. All ages welcome on this short, relaxing walk.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON 'HAPPY HOUR'

**ALL FRIDAYS AT 4PM IN
JULY AND AUGUST**

Especially for wee ones and their parents/grandparents. Join us for an hour's walk into the woods and enjoy the benefits of spending time in the quiet surrounds of nature. Bring or borrow a stroller or backpack.



© Derek Rogers

● MONDAY-THURSDAY, JULY 8-11 9 AM-2 PM

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Hiking, muddling in a marsh, a canoe trip, and creating nature art are all part of Mashomack's popular summer program. Increasing awareness of the natural world while having fun is the goal! For kids entering grades 3-7 in the fall. \$250 per child. Scholarships available.

● FRIDAY, JULY 12, 7-8:30 PM OSPREYS: ALAN POOLE BOOK SIGNING

Renowned osprey researcher Alan Poole will sign his newly published book *Ospreys: The Revival of a Global Raptor*. Dr Poole will talk about his decades of research. Held at the Mashomack Manor House. Limited space —RSVP required.

● SATURDAY, JULY 13, 11 AM-3 PM SYLVESTER MANOR OPEN HOUSE COMMUNITY DAY

Mashomack staff will join forces with the Sylvester Manor Educational Farm as guest naturalists. Learn the connections between these two iconic Shelter Island properties and how human activity has shaped the flora and fauna of Sylvester Manor.

● FRIDAY, JULY 19, 10:30-NOON YOUNG NATURALISTS: OSPREY OBSERVATIONS

Learn about the fish hawk through hands-on artifacts, a fish-catching exercise, a short talk, and a fun game. We'll have a chance to watch an active nest too! Ages 4 and up.



© Charles Gleberman



© Charles Gleberman

July continued

● SUNDAY, JULY 21, 6:30- 8:30 PM SUMMER EVENING KAYAK TRIP

Join us for a relaxing evening kayak to explore the marshes and coastlines of Mashomack, ending as the sun sets. We'll visit the Log Cabin Creek aquaculture project and paddle Bass Creek as evening shadows fall. Includes all necessary equipment. \$30 or pay what you can.

● TUESDAY, JULY 23, 10-10:45 AM LIBRARY IN THE WILD – A UNIVERSE OF STORIES!

Join Shelter Island's children's librarian Anthony Zutter or Mary Larsen Theinert at Mashomack. We'll read a book and do a craft while enjoying the outdoors. Children ages 3 & up.

● FRIDAY, JULY 26, 10:30-NOON YOUNG NATURALISTS: THE GIVING TREE

How many gifts do trees give us? We'll read the famous Silverstein book, *The Giving Tree*, then head out on a walk to meet some woody friends and get to know them better. Ages 4 and up.

● SATURDAY, JULY 27, 6 PM 36TH ANNUAL BENEFIT CELEBRATION NATURE UNITES, LET'S CELEBRATE!

Cocktails, oysters and clams at the Manor House, followed by dinner under the tent and celebrating on the dance floor.



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

August

● FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 10:30-NOON YOUNG NATURALISTS: BE NICE TO SPIDERS

Through a spider scavenger hunt, spiderweb relay, and the making of a climbing critter to take home, children ages 4 and up will appreciate the skills and beauty of our beneficial eight-legged friends.

● MONDAY-THURSDAY, AUGUST 5-8 9 AM-2 PM CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

See July 8 description.

● MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 9-10 AM CRYSTAL SINGING BOWLS MEDITATION WITH MARIA MAIER

Maria brings meditation to Mashomack's forest. Crystal singing bowls sound musical notes when played and are deeply relaxing. They support the body's natural healing ability. Add to that the sounds of nature and inner visions arise, cellular healing unfolds, and deep meditation opens its mysteries. \$10 fee. Rain location: American Legion Hall. Ages 18 & up.

● TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-10:45 AM LIBRARY IN THE WILD – A UNIVERSE OF STORIES!

Join Shelter Island's children's librarian Anthony Zutter or Mary Larsen Theinert at Mashomack. We'll read a book and do a craft while enjoying the outdoors. Children ages 3 & up.

● FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 10:30-NOON YOUNG NATURALISTS: TURTLE TIME!

How do turtles prepare for fall and winter? We'll discover their surprising methods and discuss the variety of turtles and their habitat. Children will create their own unique shell with crayons and poster board to wear on their backs. Ages 4 & up.

● SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 10-NOON FAMILY FUN: SCULPTURE FROM NATURE AT THE ANDY WARHOL PRESERVE

Come to Montauk to visit The Nature Conservancy's Andy Warhol Preserve. Artist Grace Markman leads us in building sculptures from found materials as we gather our inspiration from the sea. Ages 7 and up.

● MONDAY-THURSDAY, AUGUST 19-22 9 AM-2 PM CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

See July 8 description.

● SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 6:30-8 PM FAMILY FUN: HAULING A SEINE

Help pull in a 300' haul seine and get a look at the creatures and plants that live in the sea! We'll seek out striped bass, bluefish, porgies, fluke, flounder, and several species of crab. This demonstration of a traditional East End fishing method is appropriate for the whole family.

● MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 9-10 AM CRYSTAL SINGING BOWLS MEDITATION

See August 12 description.

● FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 10:30-NOON YOUNG NATURALISTS: WHAT IF YOU HAD ANIMAL TEETH?

Imagine if your front teeth fell out and were replaced by a beaver's! Examine animal skulls, learn about different types of teeth, make a craft and play a fun game. Ages 4 and up.



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September

● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 3-4:30 PM MEET THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF MASHOMACK

Join Alex Novarro, Mashomack's new Conservation & Outreach Manager and amphibian expert, to learn about our "herps." Brief introduction will be followed by a field session to capture and identify local salamanders and frogs.

● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 7-8:30 PM HARVEST MOON WALK

Take a night hike in Mashomack's field and adjoining forest. The full moon rising in the east and the last summer trees will make for an unusual time at Mashomack. Bring flashlights (although we'll try not to use them).

● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 9-11 AM BEACH CLEAN UP DAY

Help make a difference! Join in the annual international coastal cleanup effort which clears and categorizes the various marine debris found on our beaches. All ages welcome. Community service hours available.

● MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 6:30 AM-7 PM AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

Trails will be open from dawn to dusk for self-guided walks. Come enjoy the extended hours!

● SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 9-NOON MASHOMACK POINT PADDLE

Mashomack Point, with its winding salt marsh, is a joy to explore by self-powered boats. We'll use canoes and kayaks to investigate this waterway of the Katherine Ordway Wildlife Refuge. Includes all necessary equipment. \$45 or pay what you can. Rain/wind date Sunday, Sept 29, 9 AM.

October

● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10-11 AM OYSTERS ON THE WHOLE SHELL

Ever wonder how an oyster grows? Or curious how an oyster can be farmed? Join us at Log Cabin Creek to learn about this marvelous bivalve and why it's so important to our local ecology and economy. View first-hand the benefits that these animals provide to local waters.

● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 10 AM-NOON MASHOMACK FIELDS IN THE FALL

Join grassland enthusiast Clark Mitchell and walk through the north and south fields of Mashomack while in their fall color splendor.

● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 4-6 PM OYSTER TASTING AT THE SHELTER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join Mashomack shellfish enthusiasts at the Shelter Island Historical Society's annual Oyster Event. Learn about the biology of this tasty mollusk!

● SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 11 AM-1 PM SOUPER SUNDAY

Hike the 6-mile green trail, stopping at the Manor House at the half-way point for a cup of homemade soup. A perfect fall combination! Soup available from 11 AM to 1 PM.

● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 5-6:30 PM FAMILY FUN: NATURE'S HALLOWEEN TRAIL

Who'll be in the woods this year? Mashomack's band of costumed characters changes every year. Arrive anytime 5-6:30 PM, allowing 30 minutes to complete the trail. All ages welcome. Bring a flashlight. Light refreshments following walk. Rain or shine. All ages, adults must accompany children.

November

● SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 10-11:30 AM FALL FOLIAGE TRUCK TOUR

Did you know that trees can offer clues into climate change? With shortening days, the red maples and tupelos turn hues of red, while sassafras don shades of yellow. Join Conservation & Outreach Manager Alexander Novarro for a truck tour of Mashomack's fields, forests and along the edges of our ponds and marshes to see what colors nature has to offer.

● FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1-2 PM REPTILES: A LIVE ANIMAL PRESENTATION

A Thanksgiving weekend treat for the whole family. Lizards and turtles and snakes, oh my! A Quogue Wildlife Refuge naturalist will entertain and amaze you with facts about the very cool adaptations that reptiles need to survive. Close-up views guaranteed. Rain or shine.

December

● SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2-5 PM HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Mulled cider, eggnog, and the good cheer of the season are the perfect complement to the Bass Creek Cottage's 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.

By the Numbers

The Nature Conservancy in New York was born with the preservation of Mianus River Gorge Preserve in 1955. Since then, we've conserved more than 815,000 acres across the state from Long Island to the Adirondacks to Lake Erie. Protected lands help to clean our water, provide wildlife habitat, capture carbon and sustain New York's recreational economy. And our work in New York goes beyond counting acres.

Thanks to your generous support, we are taking on the region's biggest conservation challenges. Here's a sample of what The Nature Conservancy is doing in New York.

\$300 million

in funding secured for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This record-level investment will improve water quality, create local parks and keep communities resilient to climate change.

\$362 million

approved by Long Island voters for water quality—the single largest such allocation since the 1970s—this investment will reduce harmful nitrogen pollution in Great South Bay.

74,000

tons of carbon are being captured by 612 forested acres recently conserved in the Zoar Valley, an hour outside of Buffalo.

35,000

climate-adapted trees planted in a forest resilience project in Tug Hill. This approach has potential to be applied to other forests across the state.

28,000

native trees planted in Jamaica Bay, Queens to make New York greener.

© The Nature Conservancy



two million

oysters planted at seven sites around the Big Apple to help restore water quality in New York Harbor.

110,000

miles of roadside and shoreline surveyed for invasive plants in the Adirondacks in order to keep native habitats healthy.

6,400

acres conserved in Albany through our *Working Woodlands* program.

80%

of New Yorkers believe climate change is happening, our polling discovered. The majority wants government action to stop it from harming them and their families.

500 million

pounds of Atlantic Menhaden were harvested on the East Coast before The Nature Conservancy advocated to make the catch more sustainable. Menhaden feed marine life including bass, dolphins and whales.

240

volunteers participated alongside Conservancy staff in urban-greening opportunities, such as caring for local trees, in the South Bronx, Harlem and Gowanus neighborhoods.

160



preserves managed across New York, spanning forests, grasslands, lakes, rivers, bays and the ocean.



The Nature Conservancy
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The world we depend on depends on us.

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Save the Date

Saturday, July 27, 2019

NATURE UNITES, LET'S CELEBRATE!
36TH ANNUAL BENEFIT CELEBRATION
FOR MASHOMACK PRESERVE

6:00pm - Cocktails, oysters & clams at the Manor House

7:30pm - Dinner under the tent

8:30pm - Celebrating on the dance floor

To purchase tickets, contact Mashomack Preserve at 631-749-1001

