



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

From Our Executive Director

With the arrival of summer, there is a growing sense of hope and optimism for our natural world, an economic recovery and post-pandemic life. There are so many reasons to get outside and enjoy nature safely. This year marks our 50th anniversary in the Adirondacks. Together, we have made an enormous difference in one of nature's great strongholds. We're also celebrating a big win with the conservation of Plum Island, the 820-acre jewel located off Long Island's North Fork. And I couldn't be more excited for the opportunities that solar energy presents on Long Island. Our recent report with Defenders of Wildlife shows how solar energy production can be scaled to help meet New York's nation-leading climate goal of net zero emissions by 2050. My immense gratitude for all that you do to make this work possible!

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

DONATIONS:

Go to nature.org/newyork to donate. Or you can email donate@tnc.org for more information.



Our work in the Adirondacks started at Camp Santanoni Preserve, an aerial view pictured here. © Carl Heilman

Celebrating 50 Years of Protection in the Adirondacks

Looking back at 50 years of conservation in the Adirondacks, The Nature Conservancy has helped protect over 577,000 acres of forests, lakes, rivers and critical wildlife habitat in this vast region.

One of our first land projects was Camp Santanoni in 1972, a 12,500-acre preserve that the Conservancy acquired and later transferred to the Forest Preserve and is still open to the public. Since then, the scale and pace of the threats to our natural resources have grown exponentially—and, thanks to you, so have the tools and strategies to tackle these challenges. Today we are conserving the Adirondacks as one of nature's strongholds—a place with tremendous value to people and nature and high natural resilience to climate change.

"The Adirondack Park is a grand experiment in conservation with 103 communities in a 6-million-acre wilderness, making it the

perfect laboratory for pioneering new approaches to preserving our natural resources that benefit people and wildlife," says Peg Olsen, director of the Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter.

Thanks to your support, our team is working with landowners and partners to create linkages between large, core landscapes of healthy forests and clean waters—ensuring that species can move freely and adapt in a climate changing world. This work spans the Mohawk Valley to the south and the Tug Hill Plateau to the west, to and through the Adirondacks, over to the Green Mountains of Vermont and up into Canada. And we've reconnected over 100 miles of river, protecting important watersheds and reducing the risk of flooding to communities. Thank you for helping make our work a reality in the Adirondacks and beyond.



Clockwise, left to right: Marian Lindberg joined The Nature Conservancy team in 2005. © Kimberly Perez; Plum Island is home to extraordinary and diverse wildlife, rich history and great beauty. © J. Bret Bennington; © Robert Lorenz

Preserving Plum Island and its Many Stories

Meet Conservation Specialist Marian Lindberg

When did your interest in Plum Island begin?

I first heard about the island during my previous career as a media lawyer. A reporter called with questions about the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, and for many years after that conversation, I only knew the island on account of its reputation for secrecy. It wasn't until I came to work for the Conservancy that I heard about how amazing Plum Island is from a natural resource perspective.

What's next for the island now that it's off the auction block?

Discussions will take place with federal agencies and New York State to determine the best new owner of the island. The Conservancy will play a role on behalf of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition (a group including 116 organizations across New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island), and rely on our report that we coauthored with Save the Sound, which recommends limited public access, research, some habitat management and tours of the remains of Fort Terry. The great news is that the pressing threat of the island's sale to the highest bidder has been abated.

What did you learn working on this project?

Plum Island is a modern-day Atlantis in plain sight. There's a great deal of fantasy in what people know, or think they know, about the island. Very few people are aware of the full extent of the island's biodiversity and fascinating human history, and there is still more to learn. It's been an honor to help formulate a unified, regional vision for Plum Island. I hope we can now bring about a future for the island that satisfies the best parts of that vision—for people and for nature.

To read more about Plum Island's bright future, please visit:
nature.org/savingplumisland.

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700,000

Installing one-quarter of solar opportunities in the Roadmap could cut as much carbon pollution as removing this number of cars from Long Island's roads.



The Nature Conservancy and Defenders of Wildlife brought together utilities, municipalities, solar developers, farmers and many others to help inform this report. © Ellysa Ho/iStock

Road Map to a Clean Energy Future

Did you know that mid- to large-scale solar arrays have the potential to generate more power than Long Island uses each year? This finding is one of many from our Long Island Solar Roadmap, a collaboration with Defenders of Wildlife and local stakeholders. The report details the opportunity for these arrays to help meet New York's nation-leading climate and clean energy goals while protecting the landscapes Long Islanders hold dear. The report finds that "in scaling up solar, we don't have to choose between one 'green' good—clean energy—and another—undisturbed forests, open spaces, and farmland," says Jessica Price, our New York renewable energy strategy lead. "Even in population centers like Long Island, with the right approach, the potential for clean energy is bright."