

NATURE

NEW YORK

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Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

From Our Executive Director

This spring I am filled with a renewed sense of hope and determination for climate action in New York. We're making room for water through our coastal resiliency efforts, partnering with communities in coastal and shoreline areas to prepare for sea level rise and storm surges. We're investing in nature-based climate solutions through our Working Woodlands program, protecting and improving the management of forests across New York using the financial resources of the carbon credit market to reward public and private landowners to conserve their forests. And we're doubling down on implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, leading smart development of renewable energy across the state to reach our historic goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. We couldn't be more thankful for your support to do this nation-leading work!

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

DONATIONS:

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



Local tree stewards in Brooklyn, New York © Jonathan Grassi

Meet the Trees

On the sidewalk of Eighth Street in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn, Barrett Inman—a high school teacher and resident of the block—is showing a group the heart-shaped leaves of an American linden tree, one of several trees he regularly waters and cares for as a Volunteer Tree Ambassador with the Gowanus Tree Network.

In 2018, Gowanus Canal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy launched the Gowanus Tree Network to engage and empower stewards like Inman to care for



Emily Nobel Maxwell, New York cities program director © Jonathan Grassi



Tree sign © Jonathan Grassi

130 trees over eight blocks in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Now, we're growing our collaboration through "Meet the Trees," a public awareness initiative designed to highlight the benefits of a healthy urban forest. Through the initiative, 34 signs have been unveiled in tree beds throughout the neighborhood, offering local community members the chance to learn more about these trees and the experiences of those who care for them.

Ultimately, it's not just trees that are strengthened by the effort, but the community, too. By cultivating healthy street trees, the network aims to reduce street flooding, improve air quality, lower temperatures during summer months, and improve water quality by lessening the impacts of stormwater on local waterways. Next time you're in the area, be sure to look for these signs and thank the stewards (and the trees!) for these many benefits.



The Klipper family © Kristy Dooley

Allowing the Beauty and Science of Nature to Thrive

Meet New York Board of Trustee Member Nat Klipper and Courtney Klipper

What motivates you to support The Nature Conservancy?

Nat: I was initially attracted to the Conservancy by the breadth of its operations. While I didn't quite know what aspect I wanted to support, I knew that being part of an environmentally focused organization was critical.

Courtney: I have a career background in science and communicating issues of climate change to the public. I grew up in Colorado so I was never starved of nature growing up, but I married a man who grew up in New York City, so he seeks it out as much as he can. My background combined with Nat's passion constantly serve to remind me of the importance of nature, open spaces and slowing down, even while bustling around in the City.

Which Conservancy project inspires you most?

Nat: My wife approaches the Conservancy's work from a scientific lens, while I approach things from a love of nature. We look for projects that encompass both. We support soil health efforts in the Champlain Valley and conservation work in the Boquet River watershed, connecting both of our interests in a beautiful way.

Courtney: I love learning about what the Conservancy is doing to educate young people to become more involved in their schools, and to support their career aspirations for long-term protection of the environment.

If you could solve one environmental issue, what would it be and why?

Nat: I'd encourage corporations to be more thoughtful of the environmental ramifications of what they do. Additionally, increasing connections between people and nature is crucial, so it's important to provide open spaces for people to commune with nature.

Courtney: Encouraging corporations and politicians to use their power for the greater good rather than short-term personal gains will alleviate most, if not all, of the environmental issues we face today.

NATURE
NEW YORK

132

distinct whales
observed feeding on
menhaden around
New York City

Source: Gotham Whale

South Shore Estuary Reserve's 2019 Stewardship Award

You may have noticed the resurgence of whales off Long Island's coasts and in New York Harbor, a truly magnificent sight. The return of whales is in no small part due to the determination and hard work of The Nature Conservancy's New York oceans program director Carl LoBue. Over many years, Carl worked closely with a coalition of fishermen and women, scientists and environmental advocates who pushed to restore the population of Atlantic menhaden, a keystone fish species that provides food for other marine life, including dolphins and whales. In recognition of his championing the sustainability of our menhaden fishery, along with his work leading clam restoration efforts in the Great South Bay, Carl was recently honored with the South Shore Estuary Reserve's 2019 Stewardship Award. Congratulations, Carl!



Whales return to New York © Sutton Lynch