



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

### From Our Executive Director

Our future is inextricably linked to nature—our health, our happiness, our prosperity, our way of life. This incontrovertible fact is most evident in places like Long Island, where nitrogen pollution threatens the quality of drinking water for millions of people. Working with all levels of government, The Nature Conservancy is taking steps to address this challenge—advocating for a holistic water management plan for Long Island and leading the way for septic system upgrades—an effort you can read more about in the article at right. This spring, as we celebrate Earth Month in April, I hope you will join me in connecting with nature: Find an outdoor place to explore, an opportunity to volunteer or a moment to give and support our work in New York and around the world. Our future depends on it.

*Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director*

### DONATIONS:

Go to [nature.org/nydonate](https://nature.org/nydonate) to donate. Or you can email [natureny@nature.org](mailto:natureny@nature.org) for more information.



The Uplands Farm complex serves as an office for the Long Island Chapter. © Derek Rogers / TNC

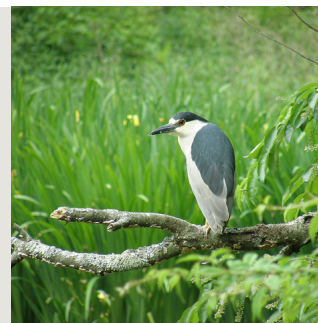
## Rethinking Wastewater

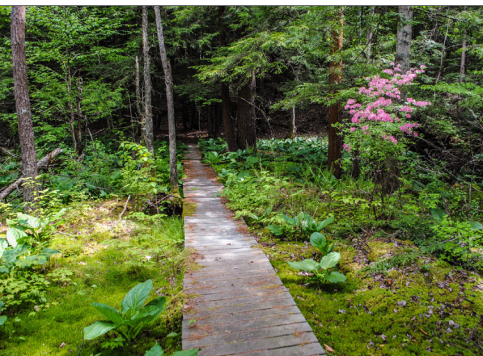
### Pilot for nitrogen reduction begins in Cold Spring Harbor

For several years The Nature Conservancy on Long Island has made water quality its top priority—raising awareness about nitrogen pollution and advocating for modernizing Long Island’s wastewater treatment systems to reduce pollution in local drinking water, bays and harbors. Now, our field staff will have a chance to “walk the talk.” A constructed wetland will replace four cesspools that currently serve the Conservancy’s Uplands Farm complex in Cold Spring Harbor, treating waste and providing habitat at the same time. The pilot project, which will be funded in part by a \$220,000 grant from Suffolk County, is the first of its kind on Long Island. As the wetland is being created, Conservancy scientists will monitor nitrogen and other contaminants while sharing findings in order to promote the use of alternative sewage treatment processes that don’t release excess nitrogen into groundwater. Learn more at [nature.org/waterquality](https://nature.org/waterquality).

### See For Yourself: Uplands Farm Sanctuary

True to its name, Uplands Farm Sanctuary still looks like an old dairy farm, complete with a silo and open fields. Today, the farm buildings serve as an office for our Long Island Chapter. An easy, double-loop trail meanders from bird and butterfly meadows, through deciduous forests, into a white pine-shaded ravine. You’ll find more than 40 species of butterfly here and many birds, including the black-crowned night heron. Plan your visit at [nature.org/uplandsfarm](https://nature.org/uplandsfarm).





Left: Rob's Trail Preserve © Mat Levine/TNC; Right: Mat Levine and his daughter © Amie Levine

# Conservation Pictured

## Mat Levine, Conservation Lands Manager

**How do you spend your days?** I co-manage the Conservancy's preserves and conservation easements in the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes and Southern Tier. Some days I spend six hours in the truck, an hour on a skiff in choppy waters and two hours on an ATV to meet a landowner at the site of a conservation easement donated to protect grassland habitat. Other days I'm in the office fielding calls from researchers, hunters, neighbors and visitors of Conservancy preserves. I spend a lot of time on our preserves maintaining trails and visitor infrastructure and managing forest pests and invasive species. No matter what, when it's lunch time, I grab my pack and camera and take 30 minutes to explore and play.

**How does photography help you appreciate nature?** Our projects are justly rooted in science. Coming back from the field with a notebook full of measurements and observations is critical for informed decision making. But a notebook of numbers falls short of painting an inspiring picture. Forest pest surveys; visitation statistics; fish sampling and vegetation surveys tell us how well each of those respective resources are performing. I hope that sharing images of the sources of those datasets—our forests, lakes, rivers, oceans and people—adds a dimension of creative and authentic storytelling to our conservation work.

**What advice do you have for aspiring nature photographers?** Get out and explore the impossibly large freshwater lakes, rivers, mountain ranges and marine systems that your support is helping to conserve. The Nature Conservancy is working in spectacular landscapes throughout New York State—from the Great Lakes to Long Island. Come experience the work you support—our door is open.

## NATURE NEW YORK

### Energy Equation: Reforming New York's Energy Vision

New York is leading the nation in re-inventing its electricity system with an initiative called "Reforming the Energy Vision" (REV), a collaborative decision-making process that will look for opportunities to improve how we produce, distribute, manage and consume electrical power. REV is a major driver of the state's goals to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050 and create a cleaner, more resilient energy future. The Nature Conservancy is participating in the REV proceedings as a voice for conservation. Two specific areas that we will support and pursue as the process unfolds are: large scale renewables, which will help New York reach its climate goals, and benefit-cost analysis that includes societal benefits, such as water quality and land use. Learn more and see the comments we have provided so far at [nature.org/nyenergy](http://nature.org/nyenergy).



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### Connect With Nature

Last year more than 200 people volunteered on Earth Day to help us clean up a beach at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens. Help us celebrate Earth Month again this year. Find an event near you and connect with nature. Learn more at [nature.org/nyearthday](http://nature.org/nyearthday).

**Connect With Us!** Go online to find out how you can connect, volunteer and support our work: [nature.org/ny](http://nature.org/ny)