



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

Thoughts from the Executive Director

As a conservationist, I have lived and worked all over the world. But I am now proud to call myself a New Yorker. New York, since the earliest days of The Nature Conservancy, has played a recurring role as an incubator of innovation, establishing a pattern of scientific excellence, community partnership and creative resourcing ever since our first land protection act in 1954 at Mianus River Gorge in Westchester County. Today we are continuing to make history, whether through historic land deals in the Adirondacks or groundbreaking urban conservation strategies in New York City. I hope you will find inspiration in this special addition to Nature Conservancy magazine—and I hope you will continue to support our work so we can keep making history in 2013.

BILL ULFELDER

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a year-end gift to The Nature Conservancy in New York using the envelope in this magazine or online at nature.org/donate.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Email us at natureny@tnc.org or tweet us [@nature_ny](https://twitter.com/nature_ny).



NATURE

New York

FALL/WINTER 2012

Above: Hudson River Gorge © Carl Heilman II

Forests for All

Adirondack Park has been one of New York's crowning conservation jewels since the late 1800s. And now New Yorkers

can count themselves even richer. Richer by more than 180 miles of rivers and streams, 175 lakes and ponds, and six mountains taller than 2,000 feet, to be exact.

On August 5, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed and finalized a deal with The Nature Conservancy for New York State to acquire over the coming years 69,000 acres of beautiful forests primarily within the watershed of the Upper Hudson River. The property, formerly owned by Finch, Pruyn & Co., has been closed to the public for more than a century. After the state acquires the lands, they will be open for hiking, paddling, hunting, fishing and other activities. Outdoor recreation contributes \$11.3 billion to the state's economy each year and supports approximately 130,000 jobs statewide, making this an acquisition that's good for the economy, good for people—and great for nature. Learn more about the deal at nature.org/comingsoonadironacks.



See For Yourself



Hiker at Silver Lake Bog Preserve © Melody Thomas

See the glory of Adirondack Park at Silver Lake Bog Preserve.

Location: A 98-acre preserve near Union Falls and Silver Lake in Clinton County

Great for: Hikers. A well-worn trail leads the way to a 200-foot bluff overlooking Silver Lake. You'll notice distinct changes in the vegetation as the elevation and the soil moisture increase or decrease.

Look for: Look up to see olive-sided flycatchers and white-throated sparrows. Look down to see spring peepers, wood frogs, Northern leopard frogs and American toads. You'll be hiking beneath a canopy of black spruce, Northern white cedar, hemlock Northern hardwood and pine.

Plan your visit: Get directions and see other preserves at nature.org/silverlakebog.



Left: Derek Rogers © Marian Lindberg/TNC

“Everyone has a ‘spark’ experience that draws them into nature. I like to turn that spark into a flame.”

News and Events

Q&A Meet Derek Rogers

Preserve manager for The Nature Conservancy in Long Island—and birding enthusiast

What's the most interesting project you've worked on recently?

I always enjoy when our preserves get utilized to their fullest potential. This year, the Long Island chapter partially funded an atmospheric deposition/mercury study working with the Biodiversity Research Initiative in Maine. The field work involved capturing songbirds and sampling their blood and feathers for methylmercury. Assisting with this project has been some of the most interesting work I've done as preserve manager.

Word is you're an avid birder. Which is your favorite Long Island preserve for bird watching? I'd have to choose St. John's Pond. It's part of the Cold Spring Harbor watershed. There's a large pond, which is great for winter waterfowl, as well as a steeply sloped hardwood forest with wet, shrubby edges. To the south there is another pond and stream system, which acts as a funnel for migrating birds. It is one of the few places on Long Island to see and hear breeding worm-eating warblers—and you may even get lucky to find Louisiana waterthrush.

Besides birding, what's the best part of your job? I like getting people psyched about the land, its inhabitants, birds, insects. These interactions open up good opportunities to spread the word about the Conservancy's mission. Everyone has a “spark” experience that draws them into nature. I like to try and turn that spark into a flame.

FIND PRESERVES
on Long Island and around New York at
nature.org/nyplaces.



Kristen Shaughnessy and Bill Ulfelder © NY1

TUNE INTO GREEN NEWS

Ever feel like there's nothing good to watch on TV? Then we have good—and green—news for you. New Yorkers in metro NYC can get a dose of environmental coverage by tuning into NY1 on Saturdays. Twice a month, Executive Director Bill Ulfelder and other Conservancy experts appear on the cable news channel to discuss green living topics relevant to New Yorkers, like energy development and clean drinking water. Learn more at nature.org/ny1.

EXPLORE NATURE AND OUR FUTURE

We've teamed up with the New York Academy of Sciences to host a lecture series exploring nature and our future. Learn about this event, which kicks off in January 2013 at nature.org/nyevents.

Get Involved

Want to know more about what The Nature Conservancy is up to in New York? There are lots of ways to connect with us!

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