

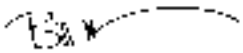


Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

## Thoughts from the Executive Director

A recent survey conducted by The Nature Conservancy revealed that many parents worry their kids are not spending enough time outdoors—and recognize this as a problem. The Conservancy is committed to connecting the next generation with the natural world. This July, more than 100 students from urban high schools will take part in our Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future program to gain outdoor work experience at Conservancy preserves across the country. And our Nature Rocks program offers seasonal activity guides and ideas for getting kids outdoors all year round. Studies show time outdoors makes us happier and healthier. As a parent raising a daughter in New York City, I have found that the world around us is what we and our kids make of it. We can find opportunities in our immediate vicinity, and we can hunt them down farther afield. Outdoor adventures are often just around the corner, and right under our noses—even in one of the biggest cities in the world. This summer, I urge you to spend time in nature with your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews. You—and they—will be glad you did.

BILL ULFELDER



### SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a donation with the enclosed envelope or at [nature.org/donate](http://nature.org/donate).



Moose photographed by a motion-sensitive infrared trail camera in the Adirondacks © TNC

## Finding Links for Wildlife

Many species of wildlife need to move around to meet their basic life needs. Bears, for example, roam to find different kinds of food throughout the year. Male bobcats occupy territories of up to 30 square miles. Moose travel more when looking for a mate. For animals like these, getting from point A to point B is a matter of survival, and development that fragments large blocks of forest poses a serious threat.

“Landscape connectivity”—the degree to which wildlife can move between patches of habitat—is key. So The Nature Conservancy is working to safeguard wildlife by maintaining and restoring these important forest connections. Our work is driven by three primary strategies: protecting critical forests, working with highway departments to make crossings safer and encouraging local land-use planning that is sensitive to wildlife.

To narrow our focus for these strategies, our field technicians spent this winter doing wildlife detective work in New York’s Southern Lake Champlain Valley. The team used old-fashioned tracking skills—finding animal prints left in the snow, measuring their size, assessing the critter’s gait—as well as state-of-the-art infrared trail cameras to determine which animals were traveling where.

As part of their fieldwork, the team uploaded location and species data into a GPS unit that is later plotted on a map, in combination with other landscape features. All of this work is helping the Conservancy and its partners determine where conservation actions would be most effective. For instance, knowing where there are crossing hot-spots can help highway departments use signs, fences, fence-breaks and culvert upgrades to minimize risks to motorists and wildlife. Learn more at [nature.org/nyconnectivity](http://nature.org/nyconnectivity).

*“Animals require safe travel zones. Identifying, securing and maintaining these zones is what our connectivity work is all about.”*

*Alissa Rafferty, Wildlife Tracking Project Lead*



## Q&A

# Native Gardening

Senior Conservation Manager Troy Weldy on why native is best



**Why go native?** Native plants are tailor-made for your specific climate and allow you to appreciate your local landscape. This means less watering and reducing — often eliminating — the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Native species are also needed for plants and animals to flourish.

Doug Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home*, makes the case for the importance of native plantings to our birds, butterflies, moths and other species, many of which will only feed upon native species with which they have co-adapted.

**Where can you find native plants suitable for your garden?** Check with your local cooperative extension office. Native plant nurseries are another good information source as they can share their experience as to what works best. Also, [plantnative.org](http://plantnative.org) has a comprehensive list of native plant growers.

**What is the Conservancy doing to tackle the spread of invasive species?** In New York, we played a pivotal role in the passage of the Invasive Species Prevention Act of 2012, which bans the sale of known invasive plants and animals. We also developed the Invasive Plant Management Decision Analysis Tool, an online tool that helps resource managers determine the likely success of a control project and select the best control strategy.

**How can New Yorkers help?** Since the sale of invasive species significantly contributes to their spread, purchasing native, nature-friendly plants for your garden is one of the best things you can do.

Flower garden © Stock: Troy Weldy © TNC

### FAST FACT

# \$167 billion

The estimated annual impact of invasive species nationally. Learn how your garden can help at [nature.org/gonative](http://nature.org/gonative).

## News and Events



Long Island coastline © Kenton Rowe

### LONG ISLAND WATER QUALITY

Long Island's creeks, bays and harbors support a multi-billion dollar tourism industry and underground aquifers provide clean drinking water for its nearly 3 million residents. But increasing pollution from sewage, pesticides and toxic chemicals threaten these waters. Aging sewer and septic systems leak too much nitrogen, leading to "red tides" and other problems that choke sea life, kill fish and poison shellfish that people eat. Scientists have developed proven solutions but action is needed now to implement these fixes. We all have a good reason to make sure our water supply is clean and healthy, and we each have a part to play in protecting Long Island's water for the future. To take action, visit [longislandcleanwaterpartnership.org](http://longislandcleanwaterpartnership.org).

## 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!

- Email us: [natureny@tnc.org](mailto:natureny@tnc.org)
- Sign up for our free, e-newsletter: [nature.org/nyemail](http://nature.org/nyemail)
- Follow us: [facebook.com/tncny](https://www.facebook.com/tncny) and [twitter.com/nature\\_ny](https://twitter.com/nature_ny)
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