



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

Thoughts from the Executive Director

The Nature Conservancy's first conservation act in 1954 was the protection of a 60-acre property in Westchester County. Back then, a small non-profit buying land and setting it aside from development was revolutionary. Today, with the threats to our lands and waters growing, we have developed new and innovative approaches to conserve New York's lands and waters for people and nature. For instance, we are launching our Working Woodlands Program to encourage landowners to conserve their forests by rewarding them for the carbon their trees capture—conserving wildlife while helping address climate change. And we recently provided \$500,000 in grants to bolster the recreation and tourism economy in the Adirondack Park—a story you can read more about at right. With your support the Conservancy has conserved nearly 750,000 acres in New York, and we plan to conserve our millionth acre by 2020. Thank you for your support!

BILL ULFELDER



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a donation with the enclosed envelope or at nature.org/donate.



Lori Phoebe Benton and Linc Marsac, professional guides and microenterprise business owners in North Creek, NY, are now leading hike-in, raft-out excursions to OK Slip Falls and the Hudson River Gorge. © Erika Bailey/TNC

Conservation and Communities

In 2007, The Nature Conservancy began a landmark conservation project called Heart of the Adirondacks, comprising 161,000 acres of forests featuring 300 lakes and ponds and 415 miles of rivers and streams. Today, as 65,000 of these acres are being protected as state land, a pool of grants provided by the Conservancy and administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation is helping to strengthen the connection between those conserved lands and local economies.

The Upper Hudson Recreation Hub grants are providing funding to towns at the core of this project area to help implement tourism and recreation projects. The town of Newcomb, for instance, now serves as the access point to the newly established Essex Chain Lakes forest complex, offers new paddling and fishing opportunities on the upper Hudson River, and is connected via a new snowmobile trail to Indian Lake. The town received a grant of \$60,000 for business development and marketing. “We are light years ahead of where we were just five years ago,” says Newcomb deputy supervisor Wester Miga.

The story is similar in other communities where conservation has opened up new lands for public use. The Upper Hudson Recreation Hub grants are supporting equestrian staging areas, modernized lodging, campground improvements and a microenterprise start-up project. It's all helping the heart of the Adirondack Park beat stronger than ever.

More To Explore in the Adirondacks



As the effort moves forward and iconic lands are transferred from the Conservancy to New York State, some prized places in the Adirondacks are becoming open to the public for recreation—for free and for the first time in more than a century. The Essex

Chain Lakes-Hudson River, Indian River, and OK Slip Falls-Blue Ledge tracts add up to nearly 22,000 acres, and collectively feature some 20 miles of wild shoreline on the Upper Hudson River and 14 lakes and ponds. Plan your visit at nature.org/adirondacks.



FAST FACT

100,000: The number of elephants killed by poachers since 2010. Learn more at nature.org/elephants.

Q&A

Problem Solving

Meet Conservancy supporter and elephant champion Andy Rosenthal



Why do you support The Nature Conservancy?

My brother bought me a \$15 gift membership in the 1980s. I started to read the magazine and was impressed with the results. It was exciting to see how many acres were being preserved. As a finance person, I was hooked after the Conservancy completed one of the early debt-for-nature swaps with Costa Rica.

What Conservancy project inspires you most?

I am most excited about the land deals both large and small. And my interest in protecting elephants has grown over the past five years as I realized the crisis we're in. This is something that can't wait. It's incredible that in such a short amount of time we can go from moderate elephant populations in Africa to facing the real possibility of wiping them off the face of the Earth forever. Recently my wife and I pledged a 1:2 match for donations to the Conservancy's Elephant Initiative over \$500, up to \$300,000. It's a problem we can solve tomorrow if we have the will. The New York Challenge for Elephants is our way of bringing more supporters to this important work.

What is your hope for nature in the future? I give to the Conservancy because I get to see tangible results that may positively impact the Earth for hundreds of years if not more. I have a special hope that we can avoid the extinction of many of the large mammals on Earth, especially elephants. The thought of a planet devoid of elephants and tigers is what inspires me to keep supporting The Nature Conservancy. | *To take advantage of this matching opportunity, please contact Tessa Rayment at trayment@tnc.org.*

African Elephant © Ami Vitale; Andy Rosenthal © TNC

Updates



Fish die off in the Peconic Estuary © Stefan Beaumont

LONG ISLAND WATER QUALITY

This summer, dead bunker washed up by the thousands onto beaches along the Peconic Estuary. The massive fish kills were caused by lack of dissolved oxygen in the water—a direct result of algal blooms fueled by nitrogen pollution from sewage. The Nature Conservancy on Long Island is using a multi-pronged approach to address this urgent problem that affects millions of New Yorkers' coastal waters. See what we're doing and join the effort to protect Long Island's water at nature.org/nywaterquality.

URBAN COASTAL RESILIENCE

The Conservancy's New York City program released a scientific report, Urban Coastal Resilience: Valuing Nature's Role. Experts analyzed several infrastructure alternatives, ranging from purely nature-based solutions to one consisting of only gray defenses. Their research found that nature-based features (such as mussel beds and restored marsh) can be successfully used in a dense, urban setting in combination with "grey" defenses (like sea walls and flood gates) to provide efficient and cost-effective protection from sea level rise, storm surge and coastal flooding. Learn more about at nature.org/nycreport.

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