



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

Thoughts from the Executive Director

After the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, many New Yorkers are asking what we can do to better protect ourselves in the future. There is no silver bullet. But we can use a portfolio of solutions—including nature itself—to help protect ourselves from weather-related harm. Dunes can help protect against tidal surge; wetlands help reduce flooding; forests buffer winds; and green roofs absorb rain. These natural defenses are often more flexible, cost-effective and sustainable than “built” solutions like sea gates and walls. And green infrastructure provides wildlife habitat, helps filter water, captures carbon, and increases property values. The Nature Conservancy in New York has a legacy of innovation. Your support enables us to innovate further, by providing science, on-the-ground knowledge and conservation tools to build a better, smarter and more sustainable future in a climate changing world.

BILL ULFELDER



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

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



NATURE

New York

SPRING 2013

Sunken Meadows © Carl Heilman II

Water Warriors

Long Island's bays and harbors are some of New York's most crucial habitats.

And for many, they also represent a place to swim, a way to make a living, a glass of drinking water. That's why The Nature Conservancy has made improving Long Island's water quality one of its priority projects.

Since 1995, nitrogen pollution of underground aquifers on Long Island has increased by 40 percent. That pollution, which comes mainly from septic systems and cesspools, flows into bays and harbors, not only threatening important sea grass and shellfish communities—but also contaminating the drinking water of many millions of Long Islanders. In response to this critical issue, the Conservancy has begun working with partners to pass laws decreasing the amount of nitrogen flowing into our waters, by modernizing sewage treatment infrastructure and rethinking certain agricultural and yard maintenance practices. “There is no single culprit here,” says marine scientist Dr. Marci Bortman. “We all contribute to this problem which means we all need to be part of the solution.” Learn more at nature.org/nywaterquality.



See For Yourself



Snowy egret © Jim Colligan

See our water work in action at Mashomack Preserve.

Location: Ninety miles outside of New York City, encompassing a third of Shelter Island
Great for: Water lovers. This preserve is rimmed by 12 miles of shoreline. You may get a glimpse of our shellfish nursery, which has raised more than 3 million scallops, clams, and oysters that help balance water quality within the bays. Stop by the visitor's center to pick up a trail map and find the routes with great water views.

Look for: More than 200 species of birds have been recorded here—so bring your binoculars. On coastal hikes, spy great blue herons, green herons, great and snowy egrets, not to mention numerous nesting osprey.

Plan your visit: Get directions and a calendar of events at nature.org/mashomack.



Q & A

Meet Cara Lee

Director of the The Nature Conservancy's Shawangunk Ridge Program and crusader for sustainable energy in New York



How did you get involved with The Nature Conservancy?

As a grad student at Yale's Forestry School, I spent a summer developing a management plan for a Conservancy preserve in northern Connecticut. Eighteen years later, I returned to the Conservancy to coordinate the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership and to oversee management of Sam's

Point, a 5,000-acre preserve that harbors an extensive, globally rare dwarf pitch pine forest.

How has your role evolved? I'm still very involved in the Shawangunks, working to protect and retain landscape connections between the Shawangunks and the Catskills—two of New York's major forest blocks. I also lead a new statewide energy team, which is developing science-based tools and strategies to reduce the impacts of energy development on our forest, wildlife, and water.

That sounds like a significant project. What's the energy team up to? The team was successful in securing a major grant from New York State to map vulnerable biodiversity resources as a tool for making decisions about siting energy development, and this work is now underway. It's an exciting step forward. Reducing greenhouse gases and achieving sustainable energy development is one of the greatest challenges we face as a society. It's critical that we avoid impacts to our waters and forests to the greatest extent possible, while meeting our energy needs.

LEARN MORE

Find out about our energy work in New York at nature.org/nyenergy.

“Reducing greenhouse gases and achieving sustainable energy development is one of the greatest challenges we face as a society.”

Cara Lee

Director, Shawangunk Ridge Program

News and Events



New York Harbor School student cycles on Governor's Island © TNC

CYCLE FOR NATURE

Five boroughs, two wheels and a passion for conservation can only mean one thing: Team Nature is taking on New York City's TD Five Boro Bike Tour! On May 5, more than 40,000 cyclists will take to the streets of New York City—and 20 of them will be riding for nature in New York. The 40-mile-long course is designed for cyclists of all levels, so sign up to join the team and help us raise money for nature in New York! Find out how you can join at nature.org/nybiketour.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH US

We're hosting a Picnic for the Earth in New York—and you're invited! Stay tuned for information about our Earth Day event this April and get more details at nature.org/nyearthday.

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!

- Visit our homepage: nature.org/newyork
- Sign up for our free, monthly e-newsletter: nature.org/nyemail
- Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/tncny
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