



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

### From Our Executive Director

Here in New York, we are fortunate to have more than 18 million acres of forests. As we strive to tackle climate change, forest protection makes a big difference. Forests sequester carbon, which translates into greenhouse gas mitigation. Protecting forests also means protecting watersheds and keeping New York drinking water supplies safe. I am encouraged by a new venture, the first-ever carbon agreement for The Nature Conservancy in New York, to protect forests for people and nature. This can serve an excellent model for future agreements in New York State and across the world in our efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, conserve natural resources and help communities prosper. As always, thank you for your support in helping us achieve our mission.

*Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director*

A handwritten signature of Bill Ulfelder in black ink.

### DONATIONS

Go to [nature.org/nydonate](http://nature.org/nydonate) to donate, or email [natureny@tnc.org](mailto:natureny@tnc.org) for more information.



Protecting forests can keep our drinking water safe. © iStock

## Protecting a Forest, Strengthening a City

Did you know an acre of mature forest can capture a ton of carbon every year? Nature is the sleeping giant in solving climate change, and nature-based solutions like protecting land and forests are among the cheapest and most effective ways to store carbon. By forging a new agreement with the Albany Water Department and Albany Water Board, The Nature Conservancy in New York is taking a leap forward in tackling one of the greatest challenges our planet faces.

The Conservancy's Working Woodlands program helps landowners sustainably manage their forests while generating new revenues. By participating in Working Woodlands, the City of Albany keeps the landscape intact, improves forest health, protects water resources, and generates a new source of revenue to maintain these benefits for people and

nature into the future. The agreement permanently protects 6,400 acres of land and water.

In addition to protecting the primary source of Albany's drinking water, the surrounding forests absorb and store carbon, which limits greenhouse gas emissions. The forest also serves as a home to all kinds of species, including bald eagles and many rare and threatened birds.

Not only are we keeping forests healthy through the Working Woodlands program, the Conservancy is also helping to generate a new revenue source for the Albany Water Board by developing and selling carbon credits on the voluntary carbon market, in which businesses and individuals buy credits to offset their carbon emissions. It's a win-win victory in the fight against climate change.



(clockwise) Enjoying a drink of water in NYC © Jonathan Grassi; Anla Cheng © Museum of Chinese in America; Shanghai skyline © The Nature Conservancy

# Fresh Water for the Future

## Meet New York Board of Trustees Member and Water Enthusiast, Anla Cheng

**What motivates you to support The Nature Conservancy?** No one understands nature better than the Conservancy. With its 600 scientists and work in 72 countries, the Conservancy studies, analyzes and protects nature—water, land, and air all around the world. The Nature Conservancy provides practical solutions to the ongoing degradation of the environment caused by population growth and industrialization. By demonstrating sound scientific studies, the Conservancy adeptly encourages adoption of smart regulations and sound environmental policymaking.

**Which Conservancy project inspires you most?** I am most inspired by the Conservancy’s work on water and urbanization. Every week, more than 3 million people move to cities in search of a better life. The Conservancy provides a blueprint for the creation of smart, sustainable cities with renewable energy, efficient water use, green buildings, parks, improved public transportation, and waste management. I am also inspired by the Conservancy’s newly formed joint United States—China effort to do important work in these areas.

**If you could solve one environmental issue, what would it be and why?** It would be water security because it is vital for healthy and peaceful societies. The prosperity of a country strongly correlates with how favorable its hydrology is. Led by the tireless and talented Giulio Boccaletti [Chief Strategy Officer and Global Managing Director for Water], the Conservancy shows farmers how to curb excessive water and fertilizer use. The Conservancy also works behind the scenes to help governments plan better dams and protect watersheds. I am proud to support the Conservancy in all these projects.

NATURE  
NEW YORK

4.2  
million tons\*

The approximate amount of pollution that urban and rural forests in NY remove annually

\*Nowak DJ, Hirabayashi S, Bodine A, Greenfield, E. 2014. Tree and forest effects on air quality and human health in the United States. *Environ. Pollut.* 193: 119-29.

### Nature's Healing Power



Trail work on the Boquet River Nature Preserve © Ken Aaron

The Nature Conservancy and the Town of Willsboro in the Adirondacks both recognize that time spent in nature can provide healthful benefits to people. That’s why the Conservancy is investing in a new accessible trail at its Boquet River Nature Preserve. The one-mile loop is designed to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, runners, walkers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. Hemlock and white pine shade the meandering pathway, and with minimal side-slope and gradient, it is the longest forest trail to meet federal accessibility standards in New York’s Champlain Valley. This means that travelers and residents, including those living in the neighboring Champlain Valley Senior Community, will have better access to nature in this special part of the world.