



# THE KINGFISHER

A Publication of the North Fork Audubon Society, Inc. Mattituck, NY  
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Summer 2016

## Past, Present and Future at Sylvester Manor

*Date: Friday, July 8  
7:30 p.m.*

*Location: Peconic Lane Community Center  
1170 Peconic Lane, Peconic*

Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, founded in 2009, now owns the 225-acre remnant of the most intact northern plantation, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015. The property was donated in 2014 by the 10th-generation descendant of Nathaniel Sylvester who, with partners, purchased the 8,000 acres on Shelter Island in 1652.

Sylvester Manor's history as a slave-holding plantation producing provisions for the 17th-century sugar industry, which displaced indigenous people after millennia of habitation, evolved through fourteen Sylvester descendant owners to become today a center for traditional and cutting-edge agricultural arts and education, all practiced with past, present and future in mind.

Sara Gordon handles planning and conservation for the educational farm, and will speak about the Manor's initiatives that include organic agriculture and pasture restoration, a resident apprentice farmer program, a pilot alternative vegetative waste-water treatment system breaking ground this fall, arts and education exploring the stories of all descendant communities, and community engagement in planning the future of this historic site, opened to the public after 360 years in private ownership.

## Preserving Plum Island for Future Generations

*Date: Friday, August 12  
7:30 p.m.*

*Location: Peconic Lane Community Center  
1170 Peconic Lane, Peconic*

Chris Cryder is Special Projects Coordinator for **Save the Sound** and Outreach Coordinator for the **Preserve Plum Island Coalition**. His "virtual tour" of Plum Island uses new imagery by photographer Robert Lorenz. The island, home to one of the nation's animal disease centers, as well as several endangered species and unique habitats, is still at risk to be sold to the highest bidder. But many organizations would rather see the amazing island conserved, NFAS included. Come learn about all that this special island has to offer as an irreplaceable natural resource.

## The Colony Collapse Disorder of Bees

*Date: Friday, September 9  
7:30 p.m.*

*Location: Peconic Lane Community Center  
1170 Peconic Lane, Peconic*

Greenport eighth-grader, Joe McInnis, may have made a break in a case that's stumped scientists worldwide. For the past year, Joe has been working with retired Plum Island veterinary pathologist Doug Gregg to determine the cause of colony collapse disorder, a global phenomenon in which adult bees disappear from the colony. You'll hear all about their vital research and why it's so important for our local agriculture.

## President's Message

It was such a joy to connect with so many people from all over the North Fork at our Annual Native Plant Sale over Memorial Day weekend. The concept of "Plants with a Purpose" has figuratively and now literally taken root with about 400 native plants making their way to gardens to provide food and shelter for birds, insects and other local wildlife. Kudos to Jim at Glover Perennials whose help and guidance through all steps of the sale ensured its success and made it a major fundraiser for our organization.

Improvements at the Red House are progressing. Plans for accessible entry to the building have been meticulously drafted by former board member, Anne Surchin. A professional architect, Anne donated hundreds of hours of her expertise to this project. Obviously, we can't thank you enough for this huge contribution to NFAS, Anne.

The timeline for completion of work at the Red House is uncertain since Suffolk County is involved in a number of different jobs throughout the county. We will keep you all posted and look forward to announcing celebrations honoring both Linda Vardy Kedenburg and Maureen Cullinane once we have a better idea of whether work will commence again any time soon.

*Debbie O'Kane*

## Cheers to Our Volunteers

Many, many thanks to **Connie Cronin, Veronica Kaliski, Christine Kelly and Peter Sacks** for your time and talents, helping to make our Annual Naive Plant Sale such a big success.

Subsequently, Christine Kelly courageously volunteered to take on the role of webmaster for NFAS. Since then she's been busy learning everything there is to know about WordPress. We certainly appreciate your commitment, Christine, and know that our website is in really good hands!

Please visit [northforkaudubon.org](http://northforkaudubon.org) for updates and other useful information.

## My Perspective on the Future

*By Eddie Ward*

From the time I was very young, I have had an interest in preserving the environment. As a young child, my father would bring me on yearly camping trips up in the Adirondacks, and I vividly remember paddling miles across lakes to reach our camping spot. My brother caught his first fish on one of our trips when he was three, and I learned to appreciate what nature has to offer. I first became acquainted with the work of the North Fork Audubon Society about four years ago when I saw a flyer for an environmental film club with Paul Stoutenburgh. NFAS hosted it, and I went on to co-produce three environmental films, one of which called for a plastic bag ban in Southold Town. Two years later, my current AP Environmental Science teacher, Jim Baglivi, suggested that I attend a climate change seminar hosted by NFAS. I soaked up what I learned in that program, and it shaped me into the person I am.

Today I have the privilege of serving as a junior member of the North Fork Audubon Society Board of Directors, where I get the chance to represent the voices of my fellow youth.

Two years ago, if you'd asked me my thoughts on the future, I would have been scared. Today, though, I am filled with hope. In just the last two years, half a million people marched in the People's Climate March in New York City, Governor Cuomo banned fracking in New York State, in just weeks the Suffolk County Legislature is due to vote on a measure to ban single-use carryout plastic bags, and the United States, along with every other major country on earth, has signed the COP21 climate agreement which will stave off the worst effects of global climate change.

Even in places that don't affect me, I am consistently granted reasons to be hopeful. Just in the last few weeks, Norway has banned deforestation, will prohibit the sale of fossil fuel cars by 2025, and will be entirely carbon neutral by 2030. In Europe, wind power is now cheaper than coal power, and in Chile, solar energy is not only the cheapest form of electricity, but is practically free to generate. Moreover, in Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged to end all fossil fuel subsidies and boost investments in clean technology.

Around the world, people and governments are moving at rapid rates to curtail climate change, protect the environment, and work for the people they represent. Through the actions of organizations like the North Fork Audubon Society, we can work to make sure that the next generation of children is still able to experience the great outdoors.

*"Eddie, we are so very proud to have you represent the latest generation of naturalists and environmentalists for North Fork Audubon. You are our future."*

*Debbie O'Kane*

## **ACTION ALERT!** Contact Senator LaValle and Ask Him to Support the Climate and Community Protection Act

Good News on the Climate Change front! In early June, the New York State Assembly passed some of the most progressive climate legislation in the nation. The Climate and Community Protection Act, which was sponsored by Long Island Assemblyman Steve Englebright, establishes the “goal of the state of New York to reduce 25 greenhouse gas emissions from all anthropogenic sources 100% over the 1990 levels by the year 2050, with an incremental target of at least a 50% reduction in climate pollution by the year 2030.” (To read the full text of the bill, visit <http://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2015/A10342>). Now we need the New York State Senate to do the same. As predicted, fossil fuel lobbyists are working full time to see this initiative defeated.

**Please contact (write, call or email) Senator Kenneth LaValle and urge him to support S8005, the Climate and Community Protection Act.**

The Honorable Kenneth P. LaValle  
28 North Country Road, Suite 203  
Mount Sinai, NY 11766  
631-473-1461  
[lavalle@nysenate.gov](mailto:lavalle@nysenate.gov)

## **Tuesdays With Tom**

### *July 19 - Nassau Point and Other “Points” of Interest*

Join Tom on this beach walk. We will look for shore birds and any other avian individuals who may be around. Meet at the Red House at Inlet Pond County Park in Greenport on the North Road at 8:00 a.m.

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### *August 16 - Shorebird Bonanza!*

Cedar Beach in Southold has the best shorebird watching on the North Fork. Come see for yourself! Meet at the Red House at Inlet Pond County Park in Greenport on the North Road at 8:00 a.m.

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### *September 20 - “Did some say J-Bay?”*

Let’s go for once! Tom has tried to do this trip for the last three years or more, but hasn’t had enough birders sign up for it. Let’s do it this year! This trip will be an all-day affair, with dinner in Howard Beach. We will meet at the Tanger parking lot in front of the Office Max at 8:00 a.m.

*It’s good to have a headcount so please call Tom at 631-275-3202 or email him at [tdamiani3@optimum.net](mailto:tdamiani3@optimum.net) to pre-register for walks. It’s helpful, but not required - so come along if you decide to join at the last minute.*

## North Fork Natives Now Welcome Visitors and Residents to the Village of Greenport

In June the North Fork Audubon Society installed two native plant gardens in the Village of Greenport. One planting is around the base of the “Welcome to Greenport” sign, west of the village on the south side of Route 25. The second is planted around the memorial stone and anchor at Larry Tuthill Park, next to the LIRR and Hampton Jitney stop.

Greenport village administrator Paul Pallas said that the village was pleased to receive the donation of plants and labor, but had one requirement for the acceptance of the donation at Larry Tuthill Park, which was that the stone plaque in memory of Mr. Tuthill not be obscured by the plantings. Native grasses with an upright habit were used around the stone plaque.

Larry Tuthill, Sr., was a lifelong Greenport resident and beloved member of the community. According to *The Suffolk Times*, he often sat on a bench near the Shelter Island Ferry while eating his lunch and said, “Welcome to Greenport” to people as they walked off the boat. The waterfront park was named in his honor and renovated in 2013 with funds raised by the Greenport Fire Department Star Hose Company - of which he was a senior member.

A generous donation from Peconic Landiing’s Monarch butterfly activist, Louise Barry, enabled the NFAS to purchase 15 different species of native plants for these sites. A top priority was butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), one of several species of milkweed native to Long Island, which Monarch larvae depend upon for survival during this stage in their development.

Both sites are challenging locations for growing the annuals we’re accustomed to seeing in municipal flower beds. Petunias, salvias, marigolds and other annuals require plenty of water and fertilizer in order to produce blooms all summer. With lots of water and food, they provide colorful, showy instant gratification. Having watched previous plantings struggle to survive each summer, Greenport resident and NFAS past

president and program chair, Diana Van Buren, decided to approach the village about providing native plants for these sites.

Along with Butterflyweed, the plantings include New York asters, eastern prickly pear, early goldenrod, seaside goldenrod, stiff asters, boneset, Carolina pasture rose, and a variety of native grasses, including little bluestem, wavy hairgrass and indiangrass, all of which provide forage and habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. All of the native plants purchased for this project were locally grown by the Long Island Native Plant Initiative in Riverhead or Glover Perennials in Cutchogue.

Native perennials need to be watered as they establish their root systems the first year. After that, rainfall should suffice, unless severe-drought conditions prevail. These plants have evolved over time to survive the unpredictable weather cycles of the North Fork. Many are considered to be highly drought tolerant and prefer lean, well-drained soil. Fertilizer is not recommended. These perennials survive the winter and return to bloom again each summer.

Pray for rain and keep an eye on these gardens as they establish themselves this summer.

## NON-TOXIC WEED KILLER

### Ingredients

- 8 oz. salt (1 cup)
- 1 gal. distilled vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dawn dish detergent (blue)

### Directions

Combine ingredients. Spray on weeds, avoiding desirable plants. Do not saturate soil.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer 2016

**Friday, July 8, 7:30 p.m.** - Sylvester Manor program, Peconic Lane Community Center

**Tuesday, July 19, 8:00 a.m.** - Beach Bird Walk, meet at Red House

**Friday, August 12, 7:30 p.m.** - Plum Island program, Peconic Lane Community Center

**Tuesday, August 16, 8:00 a.m.** - Bird Walk, Cedar Beach, Southold, meet at Red House

**Friday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.** - Bee program, Peconic Lane Community Center

**Tuesday, September 20, 8:00 a.m.** - Jamaica Bay field trip, meet at Tanger Office Max to carpool

*All programs held at Inlet Pond County Park are presented by North Fork Audubon and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone*



SUFFOLK  
COUNTY  
PARKS