

PECONIC LAND TRUST



CONSERVING LONG ISLAND'S WORKING FARMS, NATURAL LANDS, AND HERITAGE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

ISSUE NO. 9

The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

SPRING 2020

Update on Water Quality

Six Acres on Shelter Island Protected for Drinking Water under the Peconic Land Trust's Regional Aquifer Protection Program



We know that protecting our drinking water is a conservation priority for you. And we have some good news to share: the Trust completed its 3rd conservation project to protect

drinking water and recreational lands at the end of February under its regional aquifer protection program.

Six acres in the West Neck area of Shelter Island were permanently protected by the Peconic Land Trust, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Town of Shelter Island and the landowners, Ned Smyth and Rima Mardoyan-Smyth.

You've made our work on this project possible. Thank You!!!

The land is forever preserved and will continue to provide major benefits for our sole source aquifer. This property on Shelter Island has the capacity to recharge – *the process of replenishing the aquifer's water supply* – 3.5 million gallons of water annually based on available acreage alone.

The newly protected land will also provide a natural habitat for hiking and bird watching that will be open to the public later this year.

Funding for the Trust's acquisition comes from a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality



Pictured (left to right): Tom Osborne, Attorney; Rima Mardoyan-Smyth (co-owner); Josh Halsey, Peconic Land Trust; Melanie Cirillo, Peconic Land Trust; Ned Smyth (co-owner); Seth Madore, Corcoran Realtor; Shelter Island Supervisor Siller; Shelter Island Town Councilman Albert Dickson

Improvement Program (WQIP). This competitive grant provides reimbursement of up to 75 percent for the acquisition of lands that protect the source of our drinking water.

To make up the difference on this project, the Trust worked with the Town of Shelter Island. At closing, the Trust sold the land to the Town for the remaining 25 percent of the acquisition cost.

"We are incredibly thankful to Governor Cuomo and the Peconic Land Trust for taking the necessary steps to protect Long Island's drinking water. This acquisition demonstrates the State's dedication to preparing for climate change and protecting the residents," said Shelter Island Town Supervisor Gerry Siller.

In 2017, the Trust was the first organization on Long Island awarded funding for the State's new Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection initiative through the WQIP. And we were the first one in the state to protect land under this program. The Trust established its Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition Program (RAPLAP) to help our Towns on eastern Long Island protect more land for water quality.

The Trust has received three grants under the WQIP program between 2017 and 2019. A total of nearly
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\$9 million has been awarded for acquisitions in the towns of Brookhaven, East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, and Southold. The first two projects were in the Town of Brookhaven.

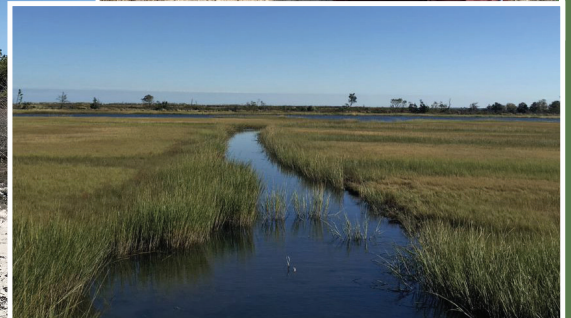
“As climate change poses a threat to our waterways, we are taking aggressive action to make sure drinking water is safe for Long Island residents,” said NYS Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. **“This \$9 million total state investment helped the Peconic Land Trust acquire three Long Island properties that will recharge Long Island’s aquifer and safeguard the region’s clean water supply. By passing the Restore Mother Nature Environmental**

Bond Act, we can continue to make these important investments that improve water quality, restore critical habitats for wildlife and fish, and help protect our environment now and in the future.”

You enable us to work effectively with property owners, multiple levels of government, and communities, to protect our important natural resources. We could not do this without you.

Interested in learning more about RAPLAP? Please contact Program Coordinator Josh Halsey at JoshHalsey@PeconicLandTrust.org.

A Breath of Fresh Air: Bringing the Outside In



Please enjoy scenes from a few Peconic Land Trust preserves for you to explore. Hopefully they provide a touch of joy and a moment of peace. Visit us online for “Places to Visit” information in your neighborhood.

Conservation in Jeopardy

Saplings Taken from Wilson's Grove

Our sincere thanks go out to the alert law enforcement officials who noticed unusual activity along Old Northwest Road in East Hampton at our Wilson's Grove Preserve. On Sunday, January 26, the East Hampton Town Police Department contacted Trust staff about suspicious activity: the removal of a large number of White Pine saplings – between 2 and 5 feet in size.

Given the extent of the theft, and the poor example it represents, the Trust has decided to press charges. We have referred the case to our legal counsel and our stewardship staff is in the process of inventorying the damage. We estimate that 350 saplings were taken.

The Trust takes seriously encroachments and infringements on land that we have been entrusted to preserve and protect. Therefore, we will pursue appropriate courses of action to do so. It is our responsibility and obligation to ensure that the conservation values of protected land are upheld.

The 45-acre Wilson's Grove Preserve – which sits within the Paumanok Path trail system – was donated to the



Peconic Land Trust in 2008 by Marillyn Wilson. The preserve includes an extraordinary forest of White Pine and Oak trees.

If you notice activity that seems unusual on a nature preserve, please reach out to us. You can call us at 631.283.3195 or email to Info@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Thank You!

Interested in becoming our "eyes" and "ears" to help monitor our preserves and keep nature protected? Please contact Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship, at MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.

PECONIC LEGACY CIRCLE

"I love the East End and wanted to leave a legacy for future generations that would nourish the essence of this place we call home. I chose to leave a gift to the Peconic Land Trust in my will. Please join me in looking towards the future – a future that values working farms, natural lands, and the heritage we all share."

- Nancy Gilbert, Peconic Legacy Circle

We need your help to continue to save the land you love. Consider making a gift through your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. You can make a lasting contribution that will truly benefit the future of Long Island. Contact us to learn more:

Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org

Bridge Gardens

Looking Ahead with Rick

Feeling stressed and worried? Sometimes, the best remedy for anxious times is right outside your door.

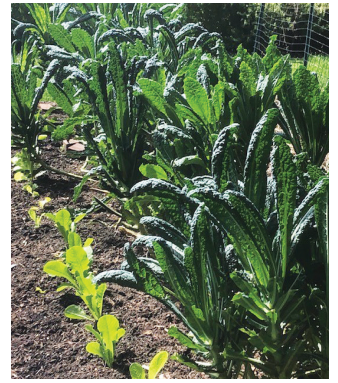
Gardens and natural areas provide a welcome respite from troubling times, a great way to escape the constant stream of worrying news we're receiving every day from many sources, while maintaining social distance. Now is the perfect time to work in your own garden, get some "soil time," or explore local beaches and wander woodland trails.

Once the winter pruning and garden clean-up were completed, the community garden plots and display vegetable garden readied for planting, and the roses uncovered from their winter mulch, my attention turned to starting seeds indoors here at the garden. I have also been busy sowing early crops like arugula, spinach, kale, and radishes outdoors because these vegetables don't mind the cold nights we were still experiencing in early Spring. I also have been pruning and fertilizing the roses, and let's not forget — weeding, weeding,



weeding. Time spent now on this chore pays dividends in the weeks to come.

Our newly planted apple and pear orchard, located between the community garden plots and the rose garden, are a wonderful addition. Thanks to a generous donor, we've planted 22 saplings, mostly semi-dwarf (10 feet tall), disease-resistant varieties. These fruiting trees will be maintained organically. Over time, they'll provide an abundance of fruit (we hope) as well as learning opportunities, albeit, virtually in the immediate future.



We'd love to hear from you!
Have questions about your garden?
Want to share what you are growing?

You can email us at BridgeGardens@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Bridge Gardens is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Our buildings and restrooms are closed to the public. Please follow all physical distancing guidelines from the CDC and our State and Local health departments.

Have any specific growing questions, or have any ideas for virtual instruction? Feel free to contact Rick Bogusch, Garden Director at RBogusch@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Conservation News

Island's End Conservation Completed

126 Acres in Greenport is Now Protected Forever



Pictured (left to right): Scott Russell, Southold Town Supervisor; Holly Sanford, Peconic Land Trust; Catherine Chaudhuri, President - Island's End Golf & Country Club; Meinrad Danzer, Treasurer - Islands End Golf & Country Club; Mary Pacinda-Turner, Owner; Mark Levine, Legal Counsel Advisor; Toni Hoverkamp, Esq., Legal Counsel

In mid-2019, we let you know that the protection of the Island's End Golf and Country Club in Greenport was nearing the final stages. We are pleased to report that the papers have been signed by all parties – the Town, the King and Turner families, and Island's End Golf and Country Club. The conservation is complete!

We are so proud to have been able to facilitate this conservation. Tim Caufield, Senior Advisor, Holly Sanford, Project Manager, and Melanie Cirillo, Director of Conservation Planning, worked with the owners of Island's End for several years to identify and implement the best conservation plan for the property. They assisted the owners and the Town with the negotiations to achieve the largest conservation project undertaken by the Town of Southold and its Community Preservation Fund to date.

About one year ago, the Southold Town Board voted unanimously to purchase the development rights on the Island's End Golf Course in Greenport: 93.86 acres of the property is owned by the King and Turner families and 32.86 acres is owned by Island's End. The final closing was on Friday, December 6, 2019.

The Town's easement covers 126.71 acres and restricts the future use of the land to recreational, open space, or agricultural use. Included in the conservation project is all 800 feet of the shoreline. There are also two development areas that must remain attached to the properties, each approximately 4 acres, that allow for limited development related to the preserved properties.

Interested in learning more? Please contact Holly Sanford, Project Manager at HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Tim Caufield, Senior Adviser at TCaufield@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Farms for the Future

Moving Forward in a Time of Uncertainty



Long Island farmers are moving at full steam into the growing season. Providing food and agricultural products is an essential part of their lives. Our farmers are in the fields every day tending the soil, prepping the fields, planting seeds and seedlings to help us put food on the table for our families.

The Trust staff is working with 28 different farm operations with farmland leases on over 200 acres of land. They include both long-established farms looking for additional land, and new start-up farms just “getting off the ground.” Director of Agricultural Program’s Dan Heston along with Stewardship Manager Jessie Marcus and Land Steward Brendan Minogue are helping to get the farmers settled in for the season.

Farmland Protection Efforts Continue

In addition to getting the farms up and running, the Trust is continuing to partner with others to protect more agricultural lands in Suffolk County. With only 19,000 of the County’s 35,000 acres of farmland protected, there’s lots more to do! The Trust is working on a number of new farmland preservation initiatives. For funding, we’re looking for help from the Towns’ Community Preservation Funds, the County and State’s Farmland Preservation Programs, and private donations for conservation.

As this crisis has pointed out, access to locally grown food and agricultural products is a necessity. Ensuring that our agricultural resources are available into the future is a pressing need and one our Conservation Planning staff is stridently working toward.

Who’s Farming with the Trust in 2020:

North Fork:

At the Ag Center (Southold)

Sang Lee Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers

Feisty Acres: pasture-raised heritage poultry

Deep Roots Farm: fruits and vegetables and pasture-raised animals

Ag Center/Charnews Incubator Fields (Southold)

Priscilla’s Farm: vegetables and flowers

Fire for Effect Farm: vegetables | Akio Shoji: Japanese vegetables

Hampton Oyster Co.: oyster grower

Sweet Woodland Farm: medicinal and culinary herbs

Mighty Acre Farm: produce, cut flowers, and herbs

Edwards Farm (Orient)

East End Flower Farm: sunflowers

North Fork Stewardship Center (Cutchogue)

McCall Ranch: cattle | Peconic Escargot: snails

Shellfisher Preserve (Southold)

Noank Aquaculture Cooperative: shellfish

South Fork:

Deborah Light Preserve (Amagansett)

Balsam Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers

Amber Waves Farm: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers

Bees’ Needs: honey | Three Sons Farm: vegetables

Sand & Soil: vegetables | Mike Tracey: vegetables

Ocean to Earth Gardens: vegetables, herbs, and flowers

Summerhill Farm: trees and plants (nursery)

Town Lane Preserve (Amagansett)

The Hoppy Acre: hops and peppers

Amagansett Sea Salt: sea salt

Hayground Farm (Bridgehampton)

Remi Wesnofske Farms and Yellow Farm: vegetables

Bonac Bees: honey

Schleicher Preserve (Bridgehampton)

Mecox Bay Dairy: vegetables

Wellde/Sugar Mountain Preserve (Sagaponack)

Pike Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers

Raynor Dibble (Eastport)

Sag Harbor Honey: honey

Visit our website for additional information on our Farms for the Future Initiative and our farmland leasing program or contact Dan Heston, Director of Agricultural Programs, at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org

Peconic Land Trust Receives New Grant to Help Farmers Looking for Land

Farmland for a New Generation New York is a statewide program coordinated by American Farmland Trust | New York – in partnership with the State of New York, agricultural organizations, land trusts, and others – that helps farmers seeking land and landowners who want to keep their land in farming.



Earlier this year, the Trust’s connection with the program was renewed with an additional grant for 2020. The Trust is one of 27 navigators from across the state. The program, launched in 2018, has already had 38 matches spanning 1,101 acres across the state. 263 farmland seekers have posted profiles and 195 farmland owners have listed properties.

Interested in learning more? Contact Stewardship Manager Jessie Marcus at JMarcus@PeconicLandTrust.org

Looking Ahead with Layton

CSA Farm Moves Forward to Grow Food for Our Families



Like many of you, here at Quail Hill Farm we find our days dramatically shifted in efforts to keep ourselves, and our community, safe.

At its core, Quail Hill exists to feed our community, and to enrich the lives of eaters by fostering a lasting and profound connection to land

and place. We're taking things one day at a time, and we thank all of you who have reached out to check in and offer support.

We will continue to keep you updated on the state-of-the-farm as time progresses and as we take our cues from state and local officials regarding food and workplace safety. With renewed imperative, we aim to provide a peaceful and sustaining presence to our members and community this season.

New for 2020

For the 2020 season, our 31st year of community farming, we are taking the opportunity to reflect on seasons past to plan for a brighter future together.

Construction of a new barn for Quail Hill will accompany a major invasive species removal project over the next year.

In 2020, we're also adjusting our planting schedule to ensure earlier and more bountiful harvests of the summer favorites like tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. With the help of heat mats in the greenhouse and biodegradable mulches in the field, we're working hard to grow the earliest, highest quality and most diverse crop of tomatoes we've had in years.

This year, we're happy to announce a new pick-up site for Quail Hill Farm box share: Bridge Gardens, on Mitchell Lane in Bridgehampton. As our sister site here on the South Fork, Bridge Gardens is the perfect place for those of you located further west who wish to participate in the CSA. Pick-ups will be Thursday afternoons from 3-6 pm. As in years past, we continue to offer Box Shares for pick-up at Quail Hill Farm, Saturdays only.

For over three decades, Quail Hill Farm has weathered countless incontrovertible challenges: climate change, crop failure, pestilence and disease. Membership is more than a simple exchange of goods and services; it connects us to a project that has the capacity to uplift and endure despite great uncertainty. This is the very essence of the great experiment (to borrow from my friend and mentor, our beloved Scott Chaskey) that is Quail Hill Community Farm: interdependence, now and forever.

Have more specific questions about what's growing at Quail Hill Farm? Contact Farm Director, Layton Guenther at LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org. Interested in becoming a Quail Hill Farm member? Contact Robin Harris, Senior Office Coordinator at RHarris@PeconicLandTrust.org

Welcome Back! Say Hello Again to Brendan and Dorian

Joining Layton at the farm this year are Farm Manager, Brendan McMullan and Production Manager, Dorian Payán.

Both Brendan and Dorian are former Quail Hill Farm Apprentices: Brendan apprenticed with Quail Hill for the 2014 season and went on to apprentice and crew positions at a variety of farm operations including Pie Ranch in California and Treadlight Farm in Kerhonkson, NY. Dorian, a graduate of



the UC Santa Cruz program, was an Advanced Apprentice at Quail Hill Farm in 2019.

"One of the most rewarding elements of this work is getting to build strong relationships with beginning farmers," said Layton. "Dorian and Brendan are both extremely talented

farmers, teachers and leaders in the food systems movement. We're thrilled to welcome them both back to our fields in Amagansett!"

Getting to Know...

Carol Steinberg: In her own words...



Carol with her friend Judith enjoying At the Common Table at Quail Hill Farm in 2018.

“I live in the historic part of Springs and feel so blessed to live in such a gorgeous place. I love the open vistas, the farmland, and the water all around us.

“Saving the farmland and open vistas to the water are the most important things to me. If we don’t protect our beautiful place, it will become just another suburb. We must save what we have, even if it’s a difficult and uphill fight. That is the Trust’s mission, which I so appreciate.

“This area is a sought-after place because of the beauty — the farmland, open spaces, and water. Too many take it for granted and assume it will always be here. Those who have been here a long time have seen very special places disappear to development. We cannot take this beauty for granted.

“I first learned about the Trust when I heard a talk by John Halsey at Guild Hall. What John said about the Trust and its work resonated with me immediately. There is such a sense of genuineness and purpose about John and the Trust’s mission.

“I became a member of Quail Hill Farm. I love the food, wine, preservation community of the East End. When I am around this community, I am heartened at all the creativity and generosity they provide.

“I called the Trust and asked to speak with someone about possibly including them in my estate planning. I met a lovely woman who came to my house and talked with me about possibilities. I decided to leave my house to the Trust. She helped me create the documents necessary to make this happen — in a way that would realize my desire to keep my house, land, and garden as they are and to also serve the Trust’s purposes.

“A conservation easement was drafted which will be filed upon my death. I am free during my life to alter this and/or change my will at any time. The easement will run with the land and allows the Trust to use my house for its best purposes. There is a restriction that if the property is sold, the house could only be enlarged by a small percentage and the garden would have to keep the same feeling. This is a good and satisfying option for me. It’s something that I can do to help keep this area that I love so beautiful.

“I support both the Trust and the farm monetarily as well. I heartily believe in the work they do. It is really important that everyone understands that the Trust gets its support from people and doesn’t receive the transfer tax money. Their mission is to keep this area we love as beautiful as it is, and I hope you’ll help them in any way you can.”

Thank you Carol, for your support, involvement, and enthusiasm. We appreciate all that you do!

If you would like to learn about how to include the Trust in your estate plans, contact Amanda Abraham at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Donor Spotlight

Arthur Beckenstein: For the love of nature

In January, Arthur Beckenstein shared with us a beautiful essay on nature, along with a few of his amazing photographs.

To read this essay and enjoy Arthur’s photos, visit www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Arthur





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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrating 37 years of Conservation



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Peconic Land Trust conserves Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage for our communities now and in the future.

During this unprecedented health crisis, everyone at the Peconic Land Trust is thinking of you, your families, and our communities. Your health and wellbeing are foremost in our minds. Like you, all of us at the Trust are concerned about, and are adapting to, the changes brought upon our lives by COVID-19.

Currently, the grounds of Bridge Gardens, Quail Hill Farm, and the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm, as well as our hiking trails, are open for you to explore. All of our indoor facilities are closed to the public. When visiting, please take care of our community by following all of the social distancing guidelines of the CDC, State and Local health departments, including maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet or more and wearing a mask or face covering.

We have heard from many of you, for which we are most grateful. Thank you for reaching out. We miss you. In this time of physically distancing, tapping into our social networks to express care and compassion is so important.

Please continue to reach out to us with any comments, questions, or concerns, and we will do likewise. Our full staff list with email addresses can be found on our website. Or please email us at Info@PeconicLandTrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

Follow us...



For the latest news and updates, please sign up for our email newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

A copy of the last financial report filed with the New York State Attorney General may be obtained in writing to:
New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271
or Peconic Land Trust, PO Box 1776, Southampton, NY 11969