



## Community Comes Together to Protect Sagg Pond Farmland

*Ten Acres Bring the White Family, Trust, Town, and Neighbors Together*

*"If you own land for an investment, it is just that—financial and self-serving. If you own land as a resource you seek to maintain and preserve it. You realize that it was here before you and will follow your demise. You plan and act accordingly as a caretaker not as a profit maker. The golden goose (farmland) is a rare bird on Eastern Long Island. It is killed on sight (on site)."*

So is the sentiment of Jeff White, son of John C. White, patriarch of a multi-generational farm family on the East End. The Whites have been farming the land around Sagaponack for over 300 years; through 11 generations. And this generation, for the first time, is coming to grips with its potential loss of land—not by choice but by financial circumstances—something their forbearers never could have imagined.

This is not a new story on the East End—but one that continues to evolve as the value of property increases and the specter of estate taxes looms. The Whites, like other families before them, are in a time crunch to protect as much of their farmland as possible during their parents' lifetime. "The increasing property values are having a negative impact on families' ability to pass on property because of estate taxes and restrictions on gifting," said Jeff White. "It's almost impossible without selling."

(continued on page 4)



Photo by Jeff Heatley

## President's Letter

When the Peconic Land Trust was but a gleam in my eye, I was told by my sage mentor, Andrew L. Johnson, that the most important attributes for success in conservation are patience and consistency, and he was right. It takes time, sometimes many years, for landowners to make decisions about the future use, ownership, and management of their land. Certainly that was the case with the White family in Sagaponack as they considered and reconsidered their options over the years as perspectives, circumstances, and land values changed... thanks to patience, consistency, the conservation values of the White family, and the efforts and support of many, we have achieved significant conservation.

By listening to landowners and understanding their land, needs, and goals, it is possible to work through the issues and the challenges that they face, whether it is the anticipation of the federal estate tax or the disparate perspectives of multiple owners or heirs. But even when a consensus is reached as to how best to proceed, it takes the help of many to execute the win-win and reach a conservation goal. In our work with the White family, the Sagaponack community and the Town of Southampton were willing and essential partners. Our role throughout was to problem solve, provide continuity over the years, assist with the acquisition process, and raise private funds to supplement public dollars.

## Board and Advisors News

### Board of Director Changes for 2006-2007

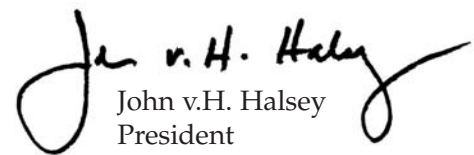
Every October, the Peconic Land Trust elects its Board for the coming year. Our Board and advisors have provided the Trust with invaluable advice and assistance in accomplishing our mission to conserve Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage. Thank you to all the Board members, present and past, for their unwavering commitment to our community. The following are the major changes to our Board for 2006-2007:

We are happy to announce that Nancy Gilbert, former Vice Chair of the Board, was elevated to co-Chair alongside E. Blair McCaslin. Blair's and Nancy's dedication to the Trust has made them invaluable over the years and we are excited to have their continuing leadership.

The Trust also would like to welcome two new members to the Board: Douglas W. Campbell IV and Stephen Weir.

In the final analysis, we recognize that people are as important as land when it comes to conservation. Indeed, this is also the case when we consider the health and wholeness of the communities in which we live. What is farmland without the farmer, what is a bay without shellfish and the baymen/women who harvest them? What is a community without people, young and old, of different cultures and races, of wealth and modest means? As property values rise and development increases, we risk losing not only our agricultural heritage and natural environment, but the people who represent our cultural and economic diversity as well.

So, in addition to conserving land, we must also seek ways to conserve the nature of our communities. By adapting conservation tools to assist with work force housing or enable protected farmland to be accessible to young farmers, we hope to assure that people of all walks of life and backgrounds can continue to live and work in our communities. In so doing, with your continued help, we make conservation and our mission relevant to all.



John v.H. Halsey  
President  
Peconic Land Trust

We look forward to their contribution in the years ahead. Doug and Stephen are replacing two longtime, invaluable Board members who have retired: Mary Foster Morgan and John Van Deventer. We'd like to thank Mary and John for their wonderful service to the organization and we look forward to their continued counsel in the future.

And last, but certainly not least, with John Van Deventer's retirement from the Board, Barbara Brush Wright has taken on the position of Treasurer. Thank you Barbara for your on-going commitment to our work in land conservation. ■

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*Peconic Land Trust Board of Directors at Lenz vineyard in 2006:  
Mary Foster Morgan, Barbara Brush Wright, Brian McCaffrey,  
Nancy Gilbert, E. Blair McCaslin, and John v.H. Halsey*

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## Legislative Update

# Tax Credits and Incentives Bode Well for Land Conservation

The conservation of Long Island's working farms, natural lands—and ultimately its heritage—received some extra help last year with the passage of tax incentive programs by New York State and the Federal government for landowners considering voluntary donations of conservation easements to local municipalities and qualified land trusts.

Over the past six years, the Peconic Land Trust and our members have worked with the Land Trust Alliance and our legislators to lobby for incentives that promote land conservation consistent with our mission and values. We are pleased to provide you with information on two new tax incentive programs that are the by-product of the hard work done by all concerned.

This information is particularly relevant to anyone who:

- previously donated a conservation easement to the Peconic Land Trust,
- owns land protected by a conservation easement,
- is considering a future donation of a conservation easement, especially in 2007, or
- is considering a sale of development rights on farmland.

### Federal Tax Incentives for Conservation

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, property owners may be entitled to an income tax deduction for protecting important conservation values as described in the IRS Code. This recently passed Congressional legislation enhances conservation tax benefits for donations of conservation easements in 2006 and 2007. The new law raises the deduction a property owners can take for the donation of a conservation easement to 50% of their adjusted gross income, 100% for qualified farmers. Donors can carry over deductions for their contribution for up to 15 years.

### New York State Conservation Tax Credit

The New York State Conservation Tax Credit—the first of its kind in the nation—provides an annual rebate of 25% of property taxes paid on perpetually protected land, capped at \$5,000 per year. This rebate is available to all owners of qualified easement-restricted land (regardless of when the easement was donated) and is effective beginning with 2006 taxes. The Land Trust Alliance New York Program worked with the State Department of Taxation and Finance to finalize the implementation process.



*Booth Easement, Southold, conserved August 2006*

Additional information on these tax incentive programs, prepared by the Land Trust Alliance, is available on the Alliance website, [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org). Peconic Land Trust does not offer legal advice. As always, you should consult with qualified tax and legal professionals as to how these changes relate to your particular situation.

These new State and Federal tax incentives offer an unprecedented opportunity to conserve the places you know and love. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding these new incentives or if you would like to discuss conservation options for your property. ■

*For more information, please contact: Julie Zaykowski, Peconic Land Trust, at (631) 283-3195 or e-mail: [jzaykowski@peconiclandtrust.org](mailto:jzaykowski@peconiclandtrust.org); or Henrietta Jordan, Land Trust Alliance, PO Box 792, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, phone (518) 587-0774 or e-mail: [hjordan@lta.org](mailto:hjordan@lta.org).*

### CPF Extension to 2030

Voters in the five East End towns (Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, Shelter Island, and Southold) voted to extend the current Community Preservation Fund tax collection by 10 years to 2030. CPF funds are used by municipalities to fund purchase of development rights programs for farmland and natural lands. The Peconic Land Trust is **not** a recipient of these funds.

# Community Comes Together to Protect Farmland

(continued from front cover)

## Neighbors Can Make a Difference

In 2006, the Whites protected 10 acres of their legacy with a little help from their neighbors. This 10 acres of farmland is a portion of what has been known as the “Golf Lot,” land that was once a golf course, and then returned to agriculture when the Whites acquired it several generations ago. In recent years, the land has been in rotation crops—potatoes, corn—and is currently leased to the Fosters, a neighboring farm family. The property sits on the east side of Sagg Pond, north of Bridge Lane.

The preservation odyssey for this farmland began in early 2005, when the Whites began exploring the option of selling the development rights to the Town of Southampton. Through such a sale, the family would retain the ownership of the land without the ability to develop it in the future. The 10 acres had been divided into three building lots in the 1990s. The development rights, therefore, were worth between \$15 million to \$20 million. Understanding that the Town would not be able to afford the rights at their fair market value, the family decided to offer them through a bargain sale at \$8 million. The difference between the fair market value would represent a charitable gift, only a portion of which the family would be able to use. Given its many other conservation commitments, however, the Town could only offer \$5 million of the \$8 million requested by the White family.

## Building Bridges through Fundraising

And this is where the community came in. The Peconic Land Trust had been working with the family and the Town when an impasse on the price occurred. At this



Map of area surrounding White farmland parcel. The red boundary lines indicate the 10 acres that are the subject of this article. The parcels in green represent protected land in Sagaponack.

point, the Trust brought up the possibility of raising the balance of the funds through a fundraising appeal to the community—similar to what the Trust was doing in Wainscott with the Babinski Farm and had done in the early 1990s with the Smith Corner Preserve, a 20-acre property also on Sagg Pond to the south of Bridge Lane. At the end of July, the Trust held the first neighbor gathering at the Bridge Lane home of Barbara and Warren Phillips, who were very enthusiastic about the proposal. “We felt that keeping Sagg Pond areas open was something all neighboring residents would not hesitate to support,” said Barbara Phillips in explaining why they joined in the effort. “The area is already overdeveloped and the Peconic Land Trust, along with the other conservation groups, needs to keep up the good fight.”

About 30 neighbors attended this gathering. “Everyone was supportive of the plan, and asked good, incisive questions,” added Warren Phillips. The neighbors who had the greatest impact at this gathering were Ann Nickel Curtin and her children. The Curtins were the first to make a pledge: 10 percent of the required funding, with a bonus—if successful in raising the required funds, Ann Curtin would host a celebratory party at her home on Sagg Pond. “My feeling was that once you lost those green fields and vistas, you could be anywhere; the heritage of this place is the farming community, the fields and the light. All of that would be lost if we didn’t do something,” said Ann Curtin.

## Answering the Call

With that, the fundraising process proceeded in earnest and the community responded. Others who made significant contributions included Robert Baldwin Sr. and his family, each of whom donated individually to the project; Bob Hurst who, in addition to personally donating, reached out to his friends and colleagues in a significant way; and Jonathan Tisch who, in addition to his personal gift, authored a personal appeal letter that made a huge difference.

In the end, 80 separate individuals, families, and groups contributed to the fundraising effort—raising more than \$1.44 million for a total purchase price of \$6.44 million (including administrative costs), which the Whites accepted in February 2006. “Clearly, for future land preservation to succeed, this has to be a joint effort between conservation organizations, the town, the community, and the landowners,” said Ann.

The culmination of this successful fundraising effort was the promised gathering at Ann Curtin’s home in Sagaponack. “It was a horrific night, with torrential



*The White's Golf Lot property is located to the left of Sagg Bridge.*

rain, and I didn't really expect anyone to come," said Ann. "In the end, it was an amazing night. This wasn't a cohesive group, we were neighbors, but many of us had never even met. However, there was a real feeling of accomplishment—even joy—at the end of the evening that we had come together and done something good as neighbors. And, having the Whites there that night to talk about the family's history made the evening that much more special and real for everyone."

"I think that given all of the variables and the people involved, the process to preserve this land went very well," added Jeff White. "There were a lot of different backgrounds that needed to be accounted for and everyone had a pretty important role to play—the Town, the Trust, the family, and the neighbors and ultimately it was a win-win situation."

### Conserving Property is a Family Tradition

The White family has been conserving their property since the 1960s, when John C. White donated a large portion of Sagg Swamp to the Nature Conservancy. To date, the family has preserved most of the property they own—the majority of which is south of Montauk Highway in Sagaponack. Other examples of farmland the Whites have protected include: 8.8 acres on Sagg Main Street; 21 acres north of Bridge Lane (and contiguous with the subject of this article); and over 9 acres on Sagg Main and Montauk Highway. Most recently, the town of Southampton purchased the development rights for 24 acres (that join a 17-acre agricultural reserve) on the

home farm that is oceanfront. The only property sold for development was the remainder of the home farm, expressly to provide an estate plan and money for taxes.

"Within the last three generations, and out of the over 100 acres owned by the family, we have preserved 90 percent of the farmland south of the highway," added son John N. White.

As land prices continue to escalate, community fundraising efforts, such as those led by the Trust to protect the White Farm, the Babinski Farm, and the Conklin homestead, are critical to supplementing finite public acquisition funds. In the end, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors who recognize the importance of conserving Long Island's working farms and natural land—indeed, our heritage. ■

*Cover photo: Tractor plowing the fields to the northeast of Sagg Pond.*

*Below: Aerial image of Sagaponack; White farmland, including the 10 acres recently conserved, outlined in yellow.*



*Photo by Tim Corwin*

From the pen of Scott Chaskey – farmer and poet: October 2006

I recently received an encouraging document entitled “Bluebird Trail News” from farm member and “Bluebird Trail Manager for Southfork Natural History Society” Joe Giunta. The Cumulative Fledging Statistics are as follows: Bluebirds fledged: 45/ Tree Swallows fledged: 237/ House Wrens fledged: 77/ Chickadees fledged: 9. The birds seem to enjoy hanging out at the East Hampton airport—in fact all 45 bluebirds were fledged there, “The best year we ever had,” says Joe. I was present the day Joe sighted a bluebird near to the boxes mounted in our Town Lane field. Ah, such promise! But she chose to search for another home. Ten tree swallows and twelve house wrens, however, were fledged from boxes overlooking the fields of Quail Hill Farm. Although the very territorial wrens can make nesting a difficult chore for bluebirds, their song inspires the farm crew. One persistent mother continues, year after year, to take up residence in our farm shop, using the abundant stalks of garlic to frame her dwelling.



Photo by: Kathryn Szoka

We’ve come to the month when starlings race through our beechwoods scattering nuts and husks as the birds flock and fall from among the branches. . . .

Yes, since you have asked, 2006 was not an easy year. On the one hand I count the blessings: working with a wonderful and spirited crew—Nikki, Joe, Ruthie, Saskia (Nikki’s name for the crew: “Ragazzi!”) & our dedicated volunteers (including Nick, full of Amagansett gusto). On the other hand—having thrown my arms up at various times to entertain the workers—I complain of the extremes of weather. I have in mind a line translated by my friend Milt Kessler: “There are good days and there are fair days.” My slight adjustment: “There are good growing years and there are fair growing years.” Note that I err on the positive side.

I remember reading, as a college student, the curious epigram that my teacher Basil Bunting chose to begin his autobiographical long poem, *Briggflats*: “The spuggies are fledged.” I love the sound of those two words. You can see them, can’t you, the sparrows lifting their young wings to leave the nest for the unknown? When I am most at home in the world I easily identify with a fledgling—hesitant and spirited, ready to lift these wings into the open sky. In a sense I return to the garden each year as a fledgling, unaware of how the season will unfold, curious if clouds or sun will dominate

### AT THE COMMON TABLE DINNER

By Hilary Leff

On August 20th, 150 people gathered at sunset in the apple orchard of Quail Hill for our third annual *At the Common Table* dinner. Andrew Engle, chef at The Laundry, joined Joe Realmuto of Nick & Toni’s to prepare hors d’oeuvres and a family style dinner, which highlighted the produce of the farm. Included in the menu were mini “hotdogs” created from carrots, a selection of oysters and caviar supplied by farm member Gigi Manasee, and grilled chicken over a bed of vegetables and barley. Accompanying the food were fabulous wines from Channing Daughters Winery. Musicians serenaded guests as they strolled into the orchard, led by farm



Photo by: Durrell Godfrey

member Bill Chaleff. It was a beautiful evening and as the sun set dozens of candles were lit throughout the orchard to illuminate a wonderful night. *The 2007 Common Table dinner has been scheduled for Saturday, August 25th. Mark your calendars.■*

# Beginnings

the sky, ready to sow some seeds into newly turned earth. At the end of the growing season—the good season or the fair season—I draw in my wings and breath, remember the texture of the nest, the persistent song of a parent, and prepare to fledge again, into the promise of winter.■

## 12th Annual Autumn Harvest Dinner

With the music of Steve Shaugnessy and friends, and the company of 80 friends and family, Quail Hill Farm celebrated with fall bounty at the 12th Annual Autumn Harvest Dinner benefit on October 22 at The Lodge in East Hampton. The Lodge's host and chef, Colin Ambrose, worked his magic in the kitchen with the fresh greens, root vegetable, herbs and beans delivered straight from the farm to the kitchen; and Michael Cinque of Amagansett Wines, supplied the libations in an evening made warm by the applewood fire.■

## The 2006 Quail Hill Farm Challenge

In early 2006, Dorothy Lichtenstein, a long time supporter of the Peconic Land Trust and a lover of organic gardens and farming, very generously pledged \$25,000 as a Challenge Grant to benefit Quail Hill Farm. We are most enthusiastic and very appreciative for the opportunity she has given us. At Quail Hill Farm we are truly fulfilling the Peconic Land Trust's mission of saving farmland and keeping it in production. Mrs. Lichtenstein's challenge has been met and answered by 77 donors, with an additional \$52,000 raised, which brings the total to \$77,000, to help us continue to conserve farmland and woodland (over 650 acres, contiguous to the farm, have been preserved in North Amagansett in the past 17 years); and to help us as we imagine new ways to improve our silt loam and to improve the "circuit of soils, plants, and animals."

At this stage in our evolution we imagine a new barn—after a year of planning our green architect is proceeding with the preliminary drawings. We also imagine other necessary improvements to our deer fencing and composting operation, and a renewable energy plan (primarily through the use of solar panels) for our present farmshop/office and three greenhouses. These are needs which cannot be funded by the annual farm share, and this is why your participation in the Challenge is so important.■



## GreenLogic Energy Donates Solar Technology and Expertise to The Farm

GreenLogic Energy, a new East End company, has donated two solar panels, batteries, set up services, and technology advice to Quail Hill Farm for powering the electric deer fence surrounding the fields. The impact has been tremendous—no energy draw from our electric grid and no dead battery someone forgot to recharge (which has allowed the deer to sneak in and munch our vegetables in the past). Lots of thanks for partners Nick Albukrek and Marc Clejan for seeking out the farm as the recipient for their pro bono project—and we look forward to a long and successful relationship with them as the farm implements additional "green" projects.■

## Upcoming 2007 Quail Hill Farm Events

**The Farm Breakfast: June 23**

**At the Common Table: August 25**

**The Great Tomato Taste-Off: Labor Day Weekend**

**Autumn Harvest Dinner: TBA**



## Special Events

# 2006 Through Farms and Fields Celebrated the

The Peconic Land Trust's annual fundraiser, **Through Farms and Fields** in 2006 turned its spotlight on the hamlet of Wainscott, celebrating the community's rich farming history with tours and activities: **Babinski Farm** (with cheese tasting courtesy of Cavaniola Gourmet Cheese Shop, cooking demo with author Susan Spungen and beer & wine sampling from the Publick House and local wineries); **Conklin House**, this 19th century treasure hosted an information display on PLT and a day-long lemonade stand hosted by local children; **Moss Garden**, garden tour and raptor exhibit with Lori Schumacher; **Wainscott Chapel**, celebrating its

centennial, hosted the *Farmscape* art show and sale (the pre-cursor to Plein Air Peconic) and the Cornell Cooperative Extension's "meet the farm animals" day long fair, *True East* book signing with author Wendy Chamberlain, and a children's art class with Raimondo.

The highlight of **Through Farms and Fields**, as always, was the Country Luncheon, held this year in the picturesque barn at the Wesnofske's Ocean View Farm, and chaired by Perry Guillot. The sold out event was sponsored by the Corcoran Group and the fashion house of Valentino. Chef Brent Newsom provided the delicious





# Wonders of Wainscott

menu, with wines by Paumanok Vineyards and D. Sokolin Company, and beer from the Southampton Publick House. The barn was decorated by Valentino. The auction—featuring unique experiential prizes—was hosted by actor/director Bob Balaban and *Inside the Actor's Studio* host James Lipton—and included front row seats to two *Inside the Actor's Studio* tapings, tickets to Valentino's runway show in Paris or Milan, and a dinner reservation at—the hard to get into—Rao's in NYC. The event raised \$150,000 for land conservation projects. ■

Mark your calendars!! The **2007 Through Farms and Fields Country Luncheon** will be on August 5 at Ocean View Farm in Bridgehampton. Visit our website, [www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org), for more information on this exciting event. For ticket information, you can also contact Robin Harris at the Peconic Land Trust at (631) 283-3195 or email [rharris@PeconicLandTrust.org](mailto:rharris@PeconicLandTrust.org).



Photos - Clockwise from top left

- Country Luncheon at Wesnofske's Ocean View Farm
- Falconer Lorrie Westman introduces the next generation to birds of prey
- Congressman Tim Bishop and Through Farms and Fields Committee members Ana Daniels and Bob Schaeffer.
- Peconic Land Trust's Rebecca Chapman and 2006 Farms and Fields Chair, Perry Guillot.
- Corcoran CEO Pamela Liebman, Peconic Land Trust President John v.H. Halsey, luncheon host Lynn Wesnofske and Assemblyman Fred Thiele.
- Peconic Land Trust Board member Peter Talty and his wife Linda Stabler-Talty at the Luncheon
- Farms and Fields Auction Masters of Ceremony Bob Balaban and James Lipton



# Outreach Programs Succeed in Connecting the Community to the Land



Early in 2005, the Peconic Land Trust embarked on an exciting new effort to connect people to the land conserved on the East End with the launch of our *Connections* events. Our first season was enthusiastically attended, and we are happy to report that 2006 was another banner year!

Providing opportunities for you to renew your awe of nature is the objective of *Connections*. Whether it's a woodland hike in Riverhead, a trip to breathe in salt-water breezes and collect shells after helping clean up the beach at a preserve on Shelter Island, a bird house building workshop in East Hampton for you and your children to connect, or sipping a glass of local, award-winning wine after enjoying a garden talk in Jamesport—these events have not only been fun, but have been inspiring to all that attend!

Our community farm at Quail Hill in Amagansett was the setting for many programs, including nature walks, talks on bee keeping and solar power, and a workshop on papermaking with natural materials. The ribbon cutting and nature walk at our new "Wolf Preserve," located in

Southold, unexpectedly became a birding experience when several attendees shared their knowledge of birding—and binoculars—with the group.

### Forty Activities on Fifteen Properties

With nearly 40 activities showcasing more than 15 different properties located throughout the North and South Forks, we hope we have expanded your understanding of the importance of conservation, and the benefits to you and your children. Looking forward to 2007, we welcome you to new opportunities to connect with nature and to experience the thrill of knowing that the scene you are enjoying today will be available for your grandchildren tomorrow because of your support for Peconic Land Trust. Join us for a hike, a workshop, or a stewardship day; learn more about mariculture at our Shellfisher Preserve, or visit our organic community farm at Quail Hill. Consider volunteering to share your knowledge or expertise with your neighbors by leading a talk or walk. However you do it, just join us, we think you'll love it!■

## Upcoming activities for 2007

### JULY:

- 6: Plein Air Peconic Reception at Riverhead Public Library
- 7: Talk to the Bees with Mary Woltz at Quail Hill Farm, Amagansett
- 12: Catapano Dairy Farm Tour, Peconic
- 21: "TiPi" Ted's Wigwam Demonstration at Downs Farm Preserve, Cutchogue
- 26: Tour of Sang Lee Farm & Cooking Demonstration, Peconic
- 28: Birds of Prey Demonstration with T. Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center, Quail Hill Farm

### AUGUST:

- 1-3: Wilderness Camp with Tipi Ted, Downs Farm Preserve
- 4: *An Inconvenient Truth* Reading & Lecture with Sara Gordon, Quail Hill Farm
- 5-19: Farmstand Heritage Celebration, a celebration of the East End's local farmers.
- 10: Plein Air Peconic Reception at Mattituck/Laurel Library
- 11: Talons, Birds of Prey Demonstration, Laurel Lake Preserve
- 16: *Through the Seasons at Quail Hill Farm* with photographer Kathryn Szoka at Amagansett Free Library
- 25: TiPi Day at Downs Farm Preserve

For more information, visit our website at [www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org) or call (631) 283-3195.



## Plein Air Peconic

# Trust and Local Artists Work Together to Capture Protected Landscapes

**P**lein Air painters and landscape photographers, brought together by local artists Gordon Matheson and Casey Anderson, created a unique visual experience last fall, **Plein Air Peconic**. Using landscapes protected by landowners in conjunction with the Peconic Land Trust as their inspirations—including *Reel Point, Dune Beach, Quail Hill, Latham Farm, Scallop Pond and Wölffer Estates*—the artists captured the beauty and variety of the East End’s farms and natural lands.

The work, showcased over Columbus Day weekend at Ashawagh Hall in East Hampton, drew crowds of art lovers and conservation-minded locals and visitors—and many of the works were sold, with the artists donating a portion of the sale to the Trust. This is not a one time endeavor. The 2006 show will be on the road in 2007 with shows at the Riverhead Library (July), Greenport Library (September) and Hampton Bays Library (October)—you can check “Connections” (online or in print) for dates, times, and locations. A whole new show with existing and new artists is planned for the summer/fall 2007. ■

*Participating Artists included: Casey Chalem Anderson, Susan D’Alessio, Terry Elkins, Aubrey Grainger, Gail Kern, Scott Hewitt, Michele Margit, Gordon Matheson, Joanne Rosko, Eileen Dawn Skretch, Tom Steele, Kathryn Szoka, and Ellen Watson.*



*Susan D’Alessio Gatherers at Quail Hill*



*Aubrey Grainger Wölffer Estates*

## North Fork News

# Peconic Land Trust is Awarded \$249,900 in Grants for Shellfisher Preserve

**P**econic Land Trust began significant restoration of its Shellfisher Preserve in Southold last fall, thanks to funding received from the KeySpan Foundation (\$150,000) and the US Department of Agriculture (\$99,900). The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.



The Trust is partnering with the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative to restore the shellfish cultivation facilities, which have fallen into disrepair since the Shelter Island Oyster Company ceased operation on the site 40 years ago. Owned by the Trust since 1995, when the Plock family donated 14 acres in Southold, Shellfisher Preserve contains unique aquaculture buildings and creekways that, once restored, will benefit the East End’s aquaculture industry by providing waterfront access for shellfish

cultivation to small-scale growers. A 25’ x 140’ greenhouse, straddling the creekway connecting Peconic Bay with a tidal lagoon that provides nutrients for young shellfish, will be large enough to house several growers. An underground facility on the site has already been restored by Noank members and is now in use as a shellfish hatchery.

In addition to supporting the East End’s aquaculture industry, this renovation project will also provide facilities for outreach and public education programs provided by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Marine Program, which has been working cooperatively with us on the site for many years. *Stay Tuned for Major Announcements Summer 2007.* ■

# PECONIC LAND TRUST



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

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