

PECONIC LAND TRUST



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

ISSUE NO. 11

The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

SPRING 2021

Preserve Update

Wolf Preserve: Newly Renovated Trail Improves Accessibility



The hiking trails at the Trust's Wolf Preserve in Southold are being remodeled to improve access for people with physical disabilities.

Located on the Great Hog Neck peninsula, the Wolf Preserve's 23 acres hosts two trail loops — an Eastern Loop and a Western Loop.

Since the fall of 2020, our Stewardship Team, led by Director Matt Swain, has been busy adding new accessibility features to the eastern trail loop. The half mile trail was:

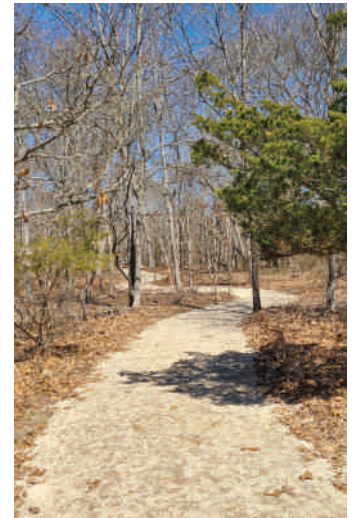
- widened to six feet to accommodate wheelchairs,
- leveled to maintain a grade of 0-3%,
- improved with a fabric underlayer to extend the trail's lifespan, and
- hardened with locally crushed stone.

The design of the meandering path is more than just beautiful. It will help prevent washouts during storms. These eco-friendly methods will be used again when the western trail loop is renovated in the coming year.

New signage will be coming soon too! The signs will explain the trail system design and the Preserve's history. It will also provide information about the ecosystems and the animals and plants that call the Wolf Preserve home. We hope to make it a great learning

experience for children and adults alike!

Future trail projects include a boardwalk across the wetlands, a bridge to connect the eastern and western trail loops, and an expanded parking lot. We hope that by expanding the parking lot to allow for vans and small buses to turn around, local community groups will have easier access to the preserve.



Eastern Loop

The Trust's newly acquired Harold A. Reese Preserve borders the Wolf Preserve and expands the conserved area on the Great Hog Neck peninsula by 30 acres. We're hoping to create another accessible trail linking the two preserves. This trail would run from Main Bayview Road to North Bayview Road, showcasing several important ecosystems and the native species that thrive there.

The renovation of the eastern trail loop was made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous donor and a \$34,500 Stewardship & Resource Management Grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Partnership with the Land Trust Alliance.

Be a part of this great project and help us improve accessibility on our preserves!

Fundraising to improve the trail system at the Wolf and Reese Preserves is ongoing.

Go to PeconicLandTrust.org/Give to make your gift today.

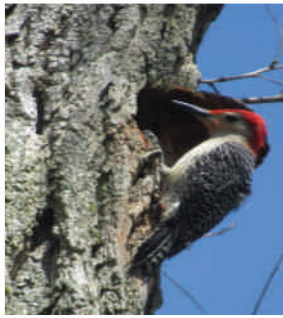
You can also contact Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship, at MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org or Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS EXCERPTS FROM OUR E-NEWSLETTER SERIES. TO STAY UP TO DATE VISIT OUR [BLOG](https://PeconicLandTrust.org) AND [PLACES TO VISIT](https://PeconicLandTrust.org) PAGES ON OUR WEBSITE: [PECONICLANDTRUST.ORG](https://PeconicLandTrust.org)

Events: Bringing Conservation Home

Thank you for connecting with us this winter!

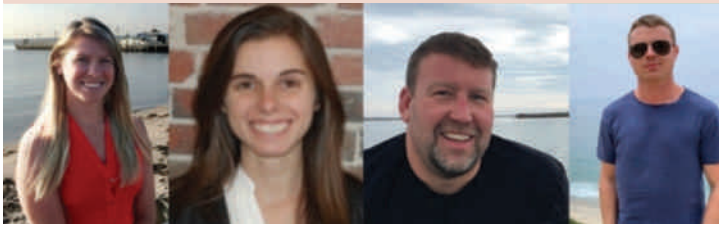
We've offered a number of Zoom programs including a deep dive into the living shoreline at Widow's Hole Preserve, the continuation of the Long Island Grown series with a focus on marine farming, the launch of a Peconic Land Trust Book Club, the Everlasting Heart Wreath Workshop, as well as videos on gardening with Rick Bogusch, Bridge Gardens Director and a look at our local birds with Nancy Gilbert and Richard Wines.



Visit our blog for recordings and essays.

Visit our calendar for upcoming programs.

We hope to provide additional in person and hybrid (online and in person) programming later this year!



Places to Visit

Bench Placed at Townsend Memorial Overlook



Supporter Troy Gustavson, artist David Nyce, and Tim Caufield, Senior Advisor at Peconic Land Trust at the Townsend Memorial Overlook at Edwards Farm.

Last year, a handmade bench was placed at the Townsend Memorial Overlook, in honor of Joseph L. Townsend, Jr., and his dedication to conservation. As a Trust Board member, Joe played key roles in numerous projects, including the Southold Town Green, the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond, Edwards Farm Preserve, and Window's Hole Preserve in Greenport.

The handcrafted bench was made by local artist and woodcarver David Nyce. David, along with Trust supporter Troy Gustavson, were there to help install

Bridge Gardens

36 Mitchell Lane,
Bridgehampton, New York

Check out



We are excited to introduce a new way to experience Bridge Gardens. Travelstories is an audio, self-guided tour of the Garden grounds. Download the Travelstories app on your phone and listen as you wander to discover the history, mystery and wonder of what's growing.

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Open Year-Round

Daily: 10 AM to 4 PM | Free Admission

www.PeconicLandTrust.org/BridgeGardens

the bench on Friday, November 6 in honor of their friend Joe, who passed away in 2019.

Please take a stroll down to the bench located at the south end of Edwards Farm Preserve in Orient. While sitting on the bench, enjoy views of Orient Beach State Park and Little Bay and the many birds that call this place home.



To learn more about Edwards Farm and other places to visit, check out:
PeconicLandTrust.org/Places-to-Visit

For more information reach out to Dan Heston, Director of Agricultural Programs, at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org or Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Getting to Know

West Robins Oyster Company

In 2017, the Trust began administering a cost-share grant program on behalf of New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The program supports farmers through capital improvement grants to comply with the State's food safety requirements in the New York State Grown & Certified Program.

Over 14 farm operations were awarded funding for this food safety cost-share program on Long Island – including West Robins Oyster Co. operating out of the Peconic Bay. West Robins received at least \$36,000 in funding through the program and used the funds to help improve their cold chain system. Will Peckham of West Robins said that working with the Trust and Josh Halsey, Conservation Policy Coordinator, has been a fantastic opportunity for the guidance provided throughout the grant process. He added that, "the Trust understands the grower's perspective."

What is a cold chain system? For shellfish growers, it means keeping their products cold once they are removed from the water. The purchase of two large scale coolers enabled West Robins to phase out the 10 Igloo coolers they used to store and move the oysters. This also consolidated their cooler footprint on and off the boat, allowing for them to be more efficient in moving and storing the oysters.

One innovative item West Robins created through the grant was the construction of a walk-in cold storage

on the boat. This allows the oysters to stay cool and shaded without the need for multiple bags for ice being purchased every harvest day. This is important with the farm site about 25 minutes away from the dock and no conventional working waterfront on the Peconic.



On a good summer day, West Robins can harvest up to 10,000 oysters. The grant has made the work more efficient from the new conveyor belt used for bulk washing and the mass cold storage. Although they don't harvest every day, when they do, harvesting typically takes 4 to 5 hours out of a 10-hour work day.

With the new equipment, they can harvest twice as fast as before. This allows for more time to perform other tasks, including the maintenance required on the oyster cages. These improvements have also decreased the physical burden of the work allowing for wider staff hiring opportunities. Instead of being expected to lift 100 pounds, it has now been halved to 40 or 50 pounds.

The Grown and Certified grants cover 90 percent of project costs, with producers matching 10 percent. This food safety cost-share grant provides farmers with funding for capital improvements to meet or maintain food safety requirement of the NYS Grown and Certified program. The Trust administers this grant program on Long Island, working together with our agricultural partners to incorporate their shared expertise in the process.

To learn more about grants that support our farmers both on the land and sea, please contact Josh Halsey, Conservation Policy Coordinator, at JoshHalsey@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Photo courtesy of Amagansett Studios

Extend your impact and become a

Peconic Partner

Your monthly gift to the Annual Fund helps protect our working farms, natural lands, and heritage. Without your support, our work would not be possible.

Thank you.

Giving is easy!

Simply return the enclosed gift envelope, or visit us online.

www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Give

Call us at 631.283.3195 or email us at: Info@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Preservation of Land in Moriches Critical to Long Island's Sole Source Aquifer

More good news for water quality along the Forge River. The Trust worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Town of Brookhaven to preserve 13.2 acres in the hamlet of Moriches. This is the fourth parcel on Long Island to be purchased with funding from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grants. WQIP grants specifically focus on the protection of drinking water.

The acquisition, near the headwaters of the Forge River, closed on January 29th. This property will help protect Long Island's groundwater, the sole drinking water source for millions of residents.

Remarking on the recent acquisition, Peconic Land Trust President John v.H. Halsey said, "The Trust is pleased to work with the DEC and the Town of Brookhaven to protect our important groundwater resources. This is the third purchase of land in the Town under this program—it protects both the land and the water essential to the health and well-being of Brookhaven residents. We look forward to announcing additional conservation efforts in Brookhaven later this year."

Funding for the acquisition comes from a \$2.3 million DEC grant awarded in December 2017 to the Peconic Land Trust for implementation of a Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition Program (RAPLAP). RAPLAP is a multi-year program using WQIP funding to acquire land or development rights for surface water quality, groundwater recharge areas, and drinking water protection.

Since 2017, the DEC has awarded the Peconic Land Trust nearly \$9 million from WQIP through three separate rounds of funding. In this matching grant program, the DEC provides up to 75% of acquisition costs and the remaining amount is matched by other public and/or private funds.

This property was identified by the Town of Brookhaven as a priority for conservation because of its location adjacent to land protected by Suffolk County and the



Pictured (left to right): Ed Romaine, Brookhaven Town Supervisor; Hal Neovins III, former landowner; Kim Quarty, Director of Conservation Planning at Peconic Land Trust; Dan Panico, Brookhaven Town Councilman; Josh Halsey, Conservation Policy Coordinator at Peconic Land Trust.

Town, and its proximity to land owned by the Suffolk County Water Authority. Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "By preserving this property as open space, we have taken a giant leap forward to improve the water quality of the Forge River and our environmentally sensitive aquifer."

The preservation of property today will pay dividends in the future, for our environment and for the community.

- Dan Panico, Brookhaven Town Councilman

In addition to protecting Long Island's drinking water source, the newly protected land will be used for passive recreation, like hiking and birdwatching, with potential improvements limited to a foot trail, placement of trail markers, and a trailhead kiosk.

"The preservation of property today will pay dividends in the future, for our environment and for the community," Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico said. "We are grateful to our partners who made this acquisition possible and will continue our efforts into the future. This latest acquisition adds to the extensive acreage we have already preserved and is ecologically sensitive."

To learn more about the relationship between land conservation and protecting our water quality, reach out to Josh Halsey, Conservation Policy Coordinator, at JoshHalsey@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Who's Farming with the Trust in 2021

We're excited to kick off a brand new season of farming. This year, the Trust staff is working with 38 different farmers on over 200 acres of farmland.

North Fork:

At the Ag Center (Southold)

Deep Roots Farm: fruits, vegetables, and pasture-raised animals
deeprootfarmnofo.com

Sang Lee Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers
sangleefarms.com

Ag Center/Charnews Incubator Fields (Southold)

Akio Shoji: Japanese vegetables

Fire for Effect Farm: vegetables, fireforeffectfarms.org

Hampton Oyster Co.: oysters,
[instagram.com/hamptonoysterco](https://www.instagram.com/hamptonoysterco)

Heirloom Taste: tomatoes and other heirloom varieties

Mighty Acre Farm: organic produce, cut flowers, and herbs

Pastured Provisions Farm: poultry

Priscilla's Farm: vegetables and flowers

[facebook.com/priscillaantoinettesgardens](https://www.facebook.com/priscillaantoinettesgardens)

Sweet Woodland Farm: medicinal and culinary herbs
sweetwoodlandfarm.com

Barra Farmland (Wading River)

Condzella's Farm: vegetables, condzellasfarm.com

Edwards Farm (Orient)

East End Flower Farm: sunflowers

North Fork Stewardship Center (Cutchogue)

McCall Ranch: cattle, mccallwines.com

Peconic Escargot: snails, peconicscargot.com

Shellfisher Preserve (Southold)

Noank Aquaculture Cooperative: shellfish, noankcooperative.org



Red Fox Farm at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood

Brentwood:

Sisters of St. Joseph

Island Harvest: vegetables, islandharvest.org

Long Island Greens, LLC: vegetables

Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI): native plants, linpi.org

Napolitano Family Farm: vegetables, napolitanofamilyfarm.com

Red Fox Farm: vegetables, garlic and herbs, redfoxfarm.farm

S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth: vegetables, strongyouth.com

Suffolk County Democratic Socialists of America: food forest

Thera Farms: vegetables and flowers, [facebook.com/TheraFarms](https://www.facebook.com/TheraFarms)



Balsam Farm at the Deborah Ann Light Preserve in Amagansett

South Fork:

Deborah Ann Light Preserve (Amagansett)

Amber Waves Farm: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers
amberwavesfarm.org

Balsam Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers
balsamfarms.com

Bees' Needs: honey, beesneeds.com

Mike Tracey: vegetables

Ocean to Earth Gardens: vegetables, herbs, and flowers
ocean-to-earthgardens.com

Sand & Soil: vegetables, [facebook.com/sandandsoilfarm](https://www.facebook.com/sandandsoilfarm)

Summerhill Farm: trees and plants (nursery)
summerhilllandscapes.com

Three Sons Farm: vegetables

Hayground Farm (Bridgehampton)

Bonac Bees: honey, bonacbees.com

Remi Wesnofske Farms and Yellow Farm Barn: vegetables

Raynor Dibble (Eastport)

Sag Harbor Honey: honey, sagharborhoney.com

Schleicher Preserve (Bridgehampton)

Mecox Bay Dairy: vegetables, mecoxbaydairy.com

Town Lane Preserve (Amagansett)

Amagansett Sea Salt: sea salt, amagansettseasalt.com

The Hoppy Acre: hops and peppers, thehoppyacre.com

Wellde/Sugar Mountain Preserve (Sagaponack)

Pike Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers
pikefarms.com

Funding Update: AFTEE Grant Will Support Year 2 for Farm to Food Pantry Program

The generosity of our community is amazing. Last year, Quail Hill Farm's Farm to Food Pantry Program provided fresh local produce to over 700 people weekly as part of the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center's (The Center) food pantry. This was all made possible thanks to donations from farm members and a grant from All for the East End (AFTEE) at the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF).

This year, Quail Hill Farm has been awarded another \$25,000 to support the Farm to Food Pantry Program through AFTEE's Feed the Need Campaign – and has received many donations from the farm's community. The program has been expanded to 25 weeks at an estimated cost of \$65,000. Thanks to the grant from AFTEE/LICF, as well as support from many of our donors, the farm will again provide produce to The Center during the 2021 season at no cost to the Center.

Trust President John v.H. Halsey remarked, "The generosity of our community members is truly inspiring. We thank AFTEE and the LICF, along with our Quail Hill Farm community, for really stepping up by underwriting this important program to our neighbors in need. And, a special thank you to the staff and board of the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center for all you do, every day."

It is an honor to grow healthy, organic food for the families of The Center.
– Layton Guenther, Director, Quail Hill Farm

In 2020, Quail Hill farmers picked, packed and delivered over 22,000 lbs of vegetables to The Center, usually all in the same day. This is key to ensuring peak nutritiousness of the food. Among many other crops, the farm delivered over 1,500 bunches of collard greens and kale, 2,000 lbs of tomatoes, and 1,000 lbs each of sweet peppers, potatoes, winter squash and sweet potatoes.



This allowed The Center to not only provide fresh, locally grown produce to its clients on a consistent basis, but also enabled them to reallocate their spending toward meat and non-perishable items. "We are especially grateful to AFTEE for the partnership with the Peconic Land Trust and Quail Hill Farm, which provided our families with fresh healthy produce all last growing season," said The Center's Executive Director Bonnie Michelle Cannon.



Remarking on the program, Layton Guenther, Director of Quail Hill Farm said, "It is an honor to grow healthy, organic food for the families of The Center. Our partnership is rooted in our common goal: to support and uplift members of our East End community through programming that nourishes mind, body and soul. As farmers, we are proud to carry this relationship forward into a new growing season, and we thank AFTEE and all of our donors for their generous support."

Before this Farm to Food Pantry Program began between Quail Hill Farm and The Center last summer, the amount of fresh produce The Center was able to collect and distribute was very limited. By establishing a direct connection between The Center's food pantry and a local farm, this program demonstrates an efficient and reliable means to distribute local produce to people most in need – and it supports the food pantry, the farm, and the local economy.

"We hope the Quail Hill/BHCCC program will serve as a model of what can be achieved when we work together and think creatively. By funding this program, we are both supporting local farming and helping those who experience food instability. There is nothing better than locally grown, fresh produce and sharing that harvest with those who really need it. We are proud to be part of the team that is making this partnership possible," said AFTEE Board President, Claudia Pilato.

The Trust hopes that the Farm to Food Pantry Program can be used as a model for other farms in the seasons to come. Quail Hill Farm is looking forward to once again partnering with our friends at The Center, where we know everyone is already looking forward to the coming of fresh greens once Spring is in full swing!

To learn more or to make a contribution to the Trust in support of our Farm to Food Pantry Program, contact Alison Delaney, Development Officer, at ADelaney@PeconicLandTrust.org or Layton Guenther, Farm Director, at LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Remembering

Marillyn Wilson

It is with sadness and fondness that I share the passing of Marillyn B. Wilson, a long-time supporter of the Trust. I first met Marillyn in the early 1980s when the Trust was in its infancy.

She was ensconced in her modest home in the Northwest Woods of East Hampton in the midst of a white pine forest known today as Wilson's Grove. There, we shared many hours in conversation about the world, conservation, forests, and farms. Thus began a friendship that stretched nearly 40 years.

During her lifetime, Marillyn contributed to the protection of thousands of acres of productive farmland, threatened woodland, and fragile shorelines not only on Long Island, but around the world. She was a modest, caring, and passionate person whose philanthropy was selfless and impactful – she was a generous soul.



Soon after Marillyn became a resident of Peconic Landing, an innovative life-care community on the North Fork, she donated her home on 45 acres to the Trust. It is now our Wilson's Grove Preserve. Please take a walk on its trail through the white pine forest – it is a fitting way to celebrate Marillyn's life and her gifts to all of us.

- John v.H. Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust

From the Archives



In our Fall 2002 newsletter, we celebrated the conservation gift from Marillyn Wilson of what is today Wilson's Grove Preserve, including this reflection by Rick Whelan:

In 1987, Rick Whalen, a member of the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society, contacted Ms. Wilson to see if she would be willing to help the Society piece together the first greenbelt trail in East Hampton, the Northwest Path. By allowing a trail across her land, a link between Town-owned properties could be created. According to Mr. Whalen, "Marillyn didn't hesitate – with tremendous grace, she agreed to let us clear a trail that is

one of the most beautiful sections of the 45-mile Paumanok Path in East Hampton. She even helped us with the work." Mr. Whalen continues, "One of the most outstanding features of this section is a White Pine hollow – named *Wilson's Grove* in her honor – you won't come across anything like this anywhere else on Long Island. While Marillyn could have continued to enjoy the secluded quiet of her land, she chose to share it with others who would appreciate the beauty of the area – it was such a generous thing to do."

To find out more about the hiking trails of these unique woodlands, please visit:
[PeconicLandTrust.org/WilsonsGrove](https://www.PeconicLandTrust.org/WilsonsGrove)



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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrating 38 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.

We hope you have been well during this unprecedented time. Your health and wellbeing are foremost in our minds. 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 by following all of the Covid-19 guidelines of the CDC, State and local health departments.

We miss you! 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.



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www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Places-to-Visit

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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, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005 or Peconic Land Trust, 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968.