

PECONIC LAND TRUST

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION

Vol. 29, No. 1



Fall 2018

G R O W I N G

our future



Continued to page 6



The Trust is a Means to an End.

Given the Peconic Land Trust's 35th Anniversary, I can't help but reflect on the conservation that you have made possible through your support since 1983. For me, since its inception, the Trust has been a means to an end, a vehicle to protect the farms and fields, ponds and beaches of my youth. Today, the Trust is far more than that!

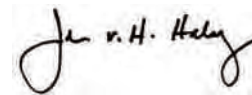
Please consider the farms, woods, and shorelines that exist today because of you. There are historic buildings and white pine forests that stand today because of you. There is clean water to drink and oysters to eat because of you. There is a place for landowners to come as they grapple with the future of their land because of you. There are children who know where a carrot comes from because of you. The Trust exists because of you – and all of us who share your passion thank you for making it possible!

As 2018 winds down, please consider the breadth of our work. Together, we are protecting land around public drinking well sites in Brookhaven; we are creating resilient, living shorelines on the Forge River

and at Widow's Hole in Greenport; we are leasing farmland to over 24 new and established farmers on the North and South Forks; we are helping the Shinnecock Nation protect sacred burial sites in Southampton; we are preserving and repurposing an historic house as a farmstead in Southold; we are protecting farmland in Southampton and East Hampton that will always be accessible and affordable for farmers who grow food. This is but a sampling of over 35 projects currently under way, a glimpse of our impact because of you.

But, there is still so much more to be done. Thousands of acres of land remain vulnerable to development, the quality of our water is threatened, and the character of our communities is at risk. Conserving what we know and love is never done and always urgent, and you are the key to our success. You see, the Trust is more than a vehicle to protect the farms and fields, ponds and beaches of my youth. The Trust is, in fact, your means to conserve all that you love on Long Island, truly an end worth fighting for.

Thanks again for all that you do! I wish you all the very best during this Holiday Season!



Girl Scouts Take Action at the Ag Center

On a picture perfect fall afternoon in September, a group of dedicated and spirited Girl Scouts celebrated the completion of their Silver Award, the highest Cadette level honor (grades 6-8), at the Peconic Land Trust's Agricultural Center located at Charnew's Farm in Southold.

Nicole Alloway, troop leader, beamed with pride as she distributed silver pins signifying the completion of the Take Action project:

"Their projects are threefold: they planted an ecologically sound pollinator garden on the property and prepared a layout map with education information about the plants in the garden; they built and installed three kinds of habitats for pollinators around the farm — bats, birds and butterflies; and they planned and painted a 30-foot mural inside the main barn which contains several 'blow ups' of plant life cycle, and fungi life cycle."



Members of Troop 94 shared in the responsibilities of the multi-faceted project, which is required to have a sustainable impact on the local community and a service commitment of 50 hours per participant. The

project's completion not only celebrates a personal milestone for the participating scouts but also enhances the ecological harmony and educational beauty of the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm. Thank you Troop 94 for making our world a little better and brighter!

To learn more about the happenings at the Ag Center at Charnews Farm visit us online at www.PeconicLandTrust.org/AgCenter or contact Denise Markut at DMarkut@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Quail Hill Farm

Meet Advanced Apprentice Miriam Kudler-Flam



My favorite part of Quail Hill harvest day is watching members in the fields with children in tow. I believe that bringing your young ones to Quail Hill is one of the most promising and far-reaching ways to invest in the future of organic agriculture!

I grew up in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. The region has a rich history of agriculture, given fertile soils off the Connecticut River. My earliest memories of farming were as a 4-year old, watching chickens squawk around the coop and picking string beans from the field. Later, I remember afternoons when my friends and I would pick strawberries and snap peas and try to sell them off to our neighbors.

My early and enduring interest in farming wasn't because my parents are farmers, gardeners, or even particularly "outdoorsy." Instead, I attribute my earliest inklings of love for the land to my family's membership at a local CSA, where I learned and experienced first-hand how good food is grown.

I know that for those of you who have brought youngsters to the farm, you have likely watched as they eagerly uncover potatoes or delight in the arrival of cherry tomatoes. I can imagine that introducing them to your farm community brings you a special joy and opportunity for connection. I want to suggest that more than just a pleasant activity, bringing the young people in your lives to this community is a small act of hope and a prayer for a more resilient future. In a time where our industrial food system is failing us, and our earth's climatic future is tenuous, enabling children to develop a deep connection with the land can encourage them to become conscious adults, and maybe even farmers themselves!

Meet more of the 2018 Quail Hill Farm apprentices by visiting our blog at www.peconiclandtrust.org/blog and read their essays.



COMMIT 10% OF YOUR WEEKLY FOOD SPENDING ON LOCAL PRODUCE AND SEAFOOD!

Be inspired to choose goods from local and independent farmers and fishermen to preserve our heritage industries and cultivate a vibrant, diverse and robust economy.

For most Suffolk County households, that's only \$17.60 per week!

To learn more visit ChooseLI.org

A conversation with . . .

Melanie Cirillo

Director of Conservation Planning

What is the role of the planning department at the Trust?

First of all, I love my job. No one project is the same, and each project lets me and my team use our problem solving abilities and be creative.

We work closely with landowners to understand their goals, needs, and circumstances. We walk the land and research the attributes of every property. We strategize about what is most important to conserve, and how to make it happen. It is never an all or nothing proposition. We work on complex projects with trusted partners. These efforts may take months, or sometimes years, to reach fruition – but we are patient, consistent, and pragmatic throughout.

What do you love most about the East End?

What I love most about living here is the healthy, fresh food from local farms and being able to appreciate the sights and sounds of nature close to home.

How much more is there to be saved?

While our work will never be done, there is only a finite amount of acreage left to preserve from development. Within the five East End towns, there are roughly 50,000 acres still unprotected. That accounts for farmland, woodland and meadows that could be added to the thousands of acres that have been conserved.

We need to redouble our efforts now before the opportunities slip away!



*Have a question for Melanie?
Contact her at:
MCirillo@PeconicLandTrust.org.*

Historic Ltn. Moses Case House Moving to Cleo's Corner



"This project is a perfect combination of farmland conservation and historic preservation. It's a unique model of how the past and present can not only coexist, but also sustain one another," said John v.H. Halsey.

Trust's Senior Manager of Agricultural Programs. The project consists of three phases:

1. Remove the existing building on the site, which was no longer habitable. This was completed in September 2018.
2. Build a new foundation and move the historic home. Anticipated by Spring 2019.
3. Restore the exterior of the home to its historical beginnings. Renovate the interior into a functional living space. 2019-2020.



It doesn't look like it was built in 1747. But Moses Luther Case built this double cape house to begin a new chapter in his life — to celebrate his marriage to Mary Hutchinson. Mary and Moses had seven children in this house. Then came the Revolutionary War.

Moses, as a member of one of Southold Town's founding families, enlisted as a Lieutenant in Southold's militia. He became widely known as a "Patriot of the Revolution." He survived the war and lived until 1814, to the age of 91.

Now, over two hundred years have passed and the house was slated to be demolished, but when the owner realized its history, he offered it to the Trust. The caveat: we would have to move it.

Luckily we have the perfect place for it – Cleo's Corner at Hortons Lane and CR 48, adding to the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm operation. There it will be part of a 5-acre farmstead. "Ideally, we would have one of the graduates from our Farms for the Future program live in the house and farm this land," said Dan Heston, the

We need your help to make this happen. Please join us in the preservation and restoration of the historic Case House with your donation today.

Interested in learning more and making a donation? Visit us online at www.PeconicLandTrust.org/CaseHouse or contact Holly Sanford at HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org or Dan Heston at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Together we can make a difference for the better by leaving a lasting gift to the Trust, and look towards a future that values working farms, natural lands and the heritage we all share.

— Jean Held,
Peconic Legacy Circle Member

Building Trails to Connect Everyone to Nature

Accessible Trails and Sensory Garden Coming to Wolf Preserve

Lenore Wolf's wish when she donated her 23-acre woodland to the Peconic Land Trust in 2003 was to provide "a place where people can breathe and renew their connection to the land."

Since 2006, the Trust has maintained two rustic hiking trails through the woods and meadows at Wolf Preserve. Now, we want to take Lenore's vision further by making the trails accessible to all people, regardless of their physical and cognitive abilities.

Did you know that one in every 20 children is thought to have a sensory processing disorder? Or that nearly 20 percent of Suffolk County's population is 65 years of age or older? Or that just being in nature promotes greater openness, creativity, connection, generosity, and resilience?



Often the people who need to connect with nature the most aren't able to. Over 100 studies have shown that spending time in nature makes us happier and calms our

nerves. But what if you use a wheelchair or a walker? What if you're blind or have cognitive disabilities?

The new trails we envision will be accessible for most everyone. They'll cross freshwater wetlands, meadows, and woodlands. They'll also include a sensory garden providing healing and safe ways for children and adults to explore with all five senses.

This is a first of its kind project on the East End

and our early estimates suggest it will be an expensive one. But we feel that everyone in our community needs more ways to connect to the beautiful place we live.

Phase 1: the creation of a Master Plan is already underway. This plan will survey and analyze the site, identify natural features and concerns, create the final landscape plan, and a comprehensive estimate of costs. This should be finished in January 2019.

Phase 2: Design, permitting and construction.

We need your help.

Interested in learning more and making a donation? Visit us online at www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Wolf or contact Matt Swain at MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org or Alison Delaney at ADelaney@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Peconic Legacy Circle: A Gift for Future Generations

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 | 631.283.3195

Trust Receives Funding to Protect Drinking Water in Brookhaven

Your Gift Matters



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

Thank you.

Giving is easy!

Simply return the enclosed gift envelope
www.PeconicLandTrust.org/give

Call us at 631.283.3195

Email us at:
Info@PeconicLandTrust.org

Clean drinking water – or the lack of it – has been headline news across the United States in the past several years. The East End is no different. Pollution caused the closing of wells in Southampton and East Hampton Towns just this summer.



The Peconic Land Trust, along with the Peconic Estuary Program, is doing something about it.

In January 2018 we were awarded a \$2.3 million grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to purchase land and conservation easements in areas known as Special Groundwater Protection Areas within the Town of Brookhaven.

The Peconic Estuary Program has partnered with the Trust, providing technical guidance, and will continue to work with us throughout the various stages of preservation.

Our planning and stewardship staff are currently working with five landowners as well as the Town of Brookhaven. Stay tuned for more information on these projects.

This initial grant covers only 75 percent of the purchase price of

the property. Therefore, the Trust is working very closely with the town, Suffolk County, foundations and individual donors to raise the additional 25 percent.

In 2015, a Suffolk County study found that it costs 10 percent more to provide drinking water from a well that is surrounded by developed land, rather than natural lands. This is due to the cost of treating the water for contaminants.



In addition, land conservation reduces the demand on our water supply and the amount of storm water runoff, while providing

habitat for plants and animals and increasing our resiliency to extreme weather.

We're excited to add that this past summer, we requested additional State funds to grow the program within the Towns of Riverhead, Southold, and Shelter Island.

We look forward to updating you on our progress early next year.

For more information on this program or to make a donation in support of land protection in Brookhaven, contact Amanda Abraham at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org or Josh Halsey at JoshHalsey@PeconicLandTrust.org.



A conversation with . . .

Matt Swain

Senior Stewardship Manager

How did you become interested in land conservation?

Having grown up on the North Fork, I am well aware of the changes that have taken place over the years. This was a place where farms thrived and woodlands were plentiful. I could walk down the road to the creek and eat the shellfish right out of the water. Over the years it's become more and more developed and I worry about losing our open spaces to parking lots, shopping centers and stop-and-go traffic.

What does the stewardship department do to help?

Each year, we visit thousands of acres. We walk the land to monitor its health, and we fight legal battles when conservation easements are violated, sometimes lasting years.

What does a GIS technician do?

I help facilitate long-term conservation planning by providing key data to the Trust. I create maps and datasets to collect, manage, and analyze geographic data, to help better understand trends on Long Island, often in collaboration with townships, counties and other organizations.



*Have a question for Matt?
Contact him at:
MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.*

Forge River Restoration Begins

Patience and consistency, words we often use in conservation, are the essence of our work along the Forge River in Mastic Beach. After years of planning and preparation, the restoration of 4 acres of waterfront land has finally begun.

The Trust acquired the property from the Stony Brook Foundation in the Fall of 2014 and began the process of applying for grants from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for properties impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The property, which had a



quality of the Forge River. The community generously donated to the acquisition, covering the remaining 15 percent of the property's acquisition costs.

With plans and permits in hand, the Trust and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) oversaw the demolition of the buildings earlier this month along with a re-grading and seeding of the area to protect the soil over the winter. In the Spring the Trust and NRCS will complete the restoration plan by planting native species and managing invasive plants.

All of these actions are anticipated to help with the overall resiliency of the shoreline.

*For more about this project, contact
Matt Swain at
MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.*



house and numerous structures, was badly damaged during the storm. The grants cover the acquisition of a conservation easement on the property (approximately 85 percent of the land's value) along with funding to restore the land to enhance its ability to be a natural buffer from storm surges for the surrounding community.

And, with the elimination of the septic system, the restoration will contribute to improving the water

...and introducing you to Community Gardener Linda Massis

This is the first year that Bernard and I worked the community garden at Bridge Gardens. Under the expert guidance of Rick Bogusch, Bernard was able to turn rich, dark soil and seedlings into a plot of land filled with 6-foot sunflowers, many varieties of tomatoes, dark red beets and other vegetables and flowers.

Although this was a happy growing season, it wasn't until the end of September potluck dinner, hosted by Rick, that Bernard and I got to meet the other community gardeners. They, like us, spent many fulfilling hours transforming the soil into gardens of colorful flowers and edible delights. During the dinner, we all shared stories, some quite funny, of our growing season at Bridge Gardens. Oh, but this story wouldn't be complete if we didn't mention the delicious main dishes and yummy desserts contributed by our new friends at Bridge Gardens.

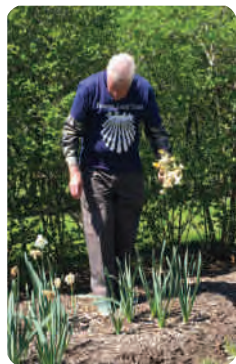
As a closing, Bernard and I would like to give a special thank you to Rick, our friend and gardening mentor.

Bridge Gardens

You may have noticed a lot more young people at Bridge Gardens this summer. Children of all ages arrived twice each week for nature-based experiences in partnership with camp programs of the Children's Museum of the East End (CMEE) and SHINE Hamptons. The children and their counselors explored every inch of this 5-acre garden and learned about growing food, tasted various vegetables and herbs with garden manager Rick Bogusch, and captured the garden's beauty in acrylics, watercolors and sculpture. With ample opportunity for games and music, they had a great time and learned a lot!



Our community gardeners had a bountiful season too. With the expansion of the plots from 20 to 22, this area continues to grow and serve the needs of those interested in growing food. Bernard Hayduk and his wife Linda Massis joined the Gardens this year, coming all the way from Coram each week to lend a hand as volunteers and tend their vegetables.



Bridge Gardens also hosted a wide array of programs, including the annual Spring Lecture Series, Spring and Fall beekeeper workshops and weekly painting classes. Monthly workshops led by Rick and Paul Wagner of Greener Pastures Organics provided alternatives to the green lawnscape, organic care for plants, and even cooking demonstrations —

including "What to Do with All Those Green Tomatoes" (see recipe to the right). We are planning more opportunities for you to enjoy the Gardens in 2019 – stay tuned for details on our Spring Lecture Series and more!



Looking ahead, a Master Plan has been drafted for the Gardens that, once implemented, will expand our ability to provide you with more opportunities: to learn about food and horticulture, to experience art and music, and to deepen your appreciation for all Bridge Gardens has to offer. With the completion of the driveway and parking area renovation this Spring, we're now turning our attention to enhancements to the community gardens and the area near the house. Your support for the Gardens will make a difference in its future.



Have questions regarding gardening or visiting Bridge Gardens? Email Rick Bogusch at RBogusch@PeconicLandTrust.org.





Thank you to the more than 30 local artists who created an amazing array of beautifully decorated birdhouses for our benefit auction! On display at Bridge Gardens since early summer, the birdhouses drew many visitors and inspired exciting bidding throughout the season in support of the Trust.

We're so grateful to the following artists:

Carol and Ron Ahlers

Casey Chalem Anderson | Scott Bluedorn

Kiki Boucher and Robin Drake

James Buttonow | Rob Calvert

Sylvia Channing | Scott Chaskey

Susan D'Alessio | Frazer Dougherty

Emilia Durka | Terry Elkins

Suzanne Fokine

Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons

Brian Kennedy | Randy Kolhoff

Scott O'Hare | Janet Ollinger

Camille Perrottet | Gabriele Raacke

Gordian Raacke | Heidi Rain

Dan Rizzie | Joanne Rosko

Barbara Stype

NancyLynn Thiele | Pete Treiber

Richard Udice | Cynthia Wells

Patricia Wynne and Ariel Fleming

Monica Yang

Thanks also to *Riverhead Building Supply* for providing the materials and to Brian Kennedy of *Fixhampton* for building the birdhouses.

Want to learn more?

Visit: 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton

Online: PeconicLandTrust.org/BridgeGardens.



GREEN TOMATO CHUTNEY



- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 lbs. green (or under ripe) tomatoes
- 1 ounce garam masala or good-quality mild curry powder
- 3 ounces sugar (¼-½ cup)
- ¼ cup cider or white vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste (about 2 tsp. salt and ½ tsp. pepper)
- Yield: about 4 pints

Peel tomatoes, hull and remove blemishes. Peel by plunging into boiling water, then into cold water and slipping off skins. Cut tomatoes in half, squeeze out seeds and chop coarsely. Gently sweat the onions in olive oil for 20 minutes. Do not let them brown. Add the garam masala or curry powder to onions and cook for a minute or so. Add the chopped tomatoes, sugar and vinegar. Stir to mix and cook for about 30 minutes or until mixture thickens. Taste and adjust for seasonings. Cool and fill sterilized jars. Top with sterilized lids. Store in refrigerator or process in a boiling water bath for 15 minutes, counting from when water returns to boil.

Bridge Gardens is OPEN

Year Round with

Free Admission

10 am - 4 pm daily

\$1 Million Grant Produces \$5 Million Investment in Long Island Farms

Earlier this year, we completed a 3-year grant program in support of farmland capital investments: \$1 million to 57 new, upgrading or transitioning Long Island farms. Funded by Empire State Development, the Agricultural Capital Equipment Grant – a reimbursement program of up to 20 percent of out of pocket costs – resulted in a \$5 million investment in agricultural operations on Long Island.

Purchases ranged from tractors and deer fencing to solar panels, oyster cages, irrigation, refrigeration and greenhouses. The following are just a few of the farmers who participated in the grant program and reinvested in their family farms! For more about the program, visit www.PeconicLandTrust.org/AgCap



Matt Schmitt
Schmitt Farms
Riverhead

“Receiving this grant has been vital to our growing business. After working for years to increase our output and expand our ability to distribute, we found ourselves at a standstill without the capital to take the next step.

“Since receiving the grant we have been able to purchase the equipment necessary to facilitate more efficient production and make upgrades to our facility which allow for greater distribution.”



Peter Stein
Peeko Oysters
New Suffolk

“The Ag Capital Grant has been a catalyst for Peeko Oysters. It has greatly accelerated our timeline for scaling our business. Growing oysters at scale requires significant infrastructure and equipment.

“With the Ag Capital Grant’s support in acquiring and implementing the much needed equipment, we are now well on our way to having an efficient and sustainable business.”

here's how the numbers stack up



New Farm Operations



Upgrading Operations



Operations in Transition

Farmers eligible for the grant were new and emerging farmers, including second-career farmers; farmers upgrading equipment to come into compliance with new food safety regulations including the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, and farmers transitioning to a new commodity, method of production, or a new business plan.



**Charles Massoud
Paumanok
Vineyards
Aquebogue**

“In any business there are desirable projects which do not always have a good financial justification. One such example is solar power. Even though prices of solar technology have come down, it will still take many years for such an installation to break even. Yet it is very desirable as it reduces the use of fossil fuel as well as our dependency on the power utility.

“A grant will usually help improve the financial cost justification making it a more attractive investment. The payback benefits the business for sure but it is also a gift to the community as the carbon emissions are reduced for everyone.”

Grown & Certified: \$500,000 Grant Program



The Peconic Land Trust will be administering a new grant available to Long Island farmers

interested in New York State Grown & Certified. This is a certification program offered by the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets.

This grant program was established to assist farmers in meeting the food safety and environmental management standards required to enroll specific crops in the new program.

The grant offers up to \$50,000 per producer for capital improvements to meet or maintain the food safety requirements of the Grown & Certified Program. Grant funds cover 90 percent of project costs.

For more information about grant eligibility and requirements, please visit our website – www.PeconicLandTrust.org/GrownAndCertified – or email us at GrownAndCertified@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Farm Fact:
In 2018,
27 operations leased
land from the
Peconic Land Trust
on over 200 acres
on both the North and
South Forks!

A Note from Scott Chaskey: Unity & Diversity



For one who works with the land, Autumn, the harvest season, is thankfully a time for contemplation. Recently I have been reading an inspiring book by Terry Tempest Williams, **“The Hour of Land, A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks.”**

Asked to compose a written piece for Grand Teton National Park, Terry visits the New York office of one of those responsible for the significant expansion of the Park, Laurance Rockefeller. Laurance, who transferred thousands of acres of land to Grand Teton National Park between 1969-1983, once remarked: “How we treat land, how we build upon it, how we act toward our air and water, in the long run, will tell what kind of people we really are.”

I know something of the Tetons because some years ago I was invited to take part in a conservation forum “Inspiring an Effective Voice for the Earth” held at the Murie Center, in Moose, Wyoming, at the base of the majestic Tetons range, at a bend of the Snake River. If you are reading this I know that you have an interest in conservation, and anyone with such an interest should know of Mardy and Olaus Murie.

Olaus, a wildlife biologist, was employed by the U.S. Biological Survey in Alaska early in his career, and there he met Mardy, a child of Fairbanks, Alaska Territory. After many years of exploration in Alaska the Muries moved to Moose in 1945, and Olaus became the Director of The Wilderness Society. They played a major role in the creation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, Mardy was present. Jimmy Carter awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She has been called the mother of American conservation, and the Murie Center was founded to carry on the work of Olaus and

Mardy, and to explore the inestimable value of wild places.

“We live in a precarious world,” Mardy wrote, “and our remaining wild places and wilderness must be an element in all our thinking and all our doing.”

Terry visits the room Laurance once occupied, several years after he died at age 94—it is primarily cleared of papers and objects, though on his desk and lining the shelves she encounters dozens of Buddhas and scales.

Laurance, the collector, had written this: “I love the concept of unity and diversity...most decisions are based on a tiny difference. People say this was right and that wrong—the difference was a feather...I keep scales wherever I am to remind me of that...They’re a symbol of my awareness of the distortion most people have of what’s better and what isn’t.”

By preserving and protecting land we can come closer to the spirit of land, and the forces that land is made of. Both the Muries and Laurance Rockefeller felt this, they responded to this in the landscape of the Tetons. Rock rises out of the interplay of forces present at the origin of our Earth. “I love the concept of unity and diversity...” Something we can learn from the land, something we can work to restore and to maintain in the land we inhabit, something to resonate with...and to pass on.



Interested in joining Quail Hill Farm? The Winter CSA, including root vegetables and fresh greens, is still available. And don't forget, the Summer Share season begins in early June.

For more information visit www.PeconicLandTrust.org/QuailHillFarm



A Special Thank You to

Michael Halsband

Over the course of 2017, photographer Michael Halsband chronicled the changes of the season at the farm. Visit our website to check out a selection of his work over the year, including the cover photograph.

For more photos, visit www.PeconicLandTrust.org/QuailHillFarm



MANY, MANY THANKS ...

To those responsible for a wonderful and glorious evening!

Sponsors

The Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation
Amanda and Don Mullen

Committee

Julie Resnick (Chair)
Peter Cobb, Kevin Coffey, Nancy Goell,
Madelaine Haberman, Deb Harris,
Susan Malfa, Kathleen Masters,
Deborah Nevins, Rand Stoll

Chefs & Winemakers:

Jason Weiner and Jeremy Blutstein,
Almond Restaurant
Joe Realmuto, Nick & Toni's
Carolyn Stec and J. Silhan,
Mill House Inn and A Kitchen 4 Liam
Jack Formica, Amber Waves Farm
Peter Ambrose, Endless Summer
Event Catering
Molly Channing, Larry Perrine,
Allison Dubin and Christopher Tracy,
Channing Daughters Winery

Connections 2018



Thank you to all who joined us for our 2018 Connections programs — from farm tours to garden walks to beekeeping and paddling. We learned, enjoyed, and celebrated with you.

Clockwise from the top: planting seeds at *Southampton Arts Center* on Earth Day, examining flower types at *Bridge Gardens*, learning how to conserve water in our gardens with Lillian Ball, *Moo* at *Acabonac Farms*, examining bay creatures in Hampton Bays, getting acquainted at *Mecox Dairy*, making friends at *8 Hands Farm*, paddling *Shinnecock Bay*, ready, set, grow at the *Children's Museum of the East End*.



... sharing a masterpiece from the herb garden at *Bridge Gardens* with *Hamptons Art Camp*, paddling *Big Fresh Pond*, watching the goats enjoy lunch at *Catapano Dairy Farm*, planting a cutting garden at *Bridge Gardens*, building birdhouses at *the Ag Center at Charnews Farm*, identifying edible flowers in *Orient*, learning about ladybugs at *Quail Hill Farm*, petting the ponies at *Catapano Dairy Farm*, enjoying a sunset snack after a paddle at *Conscience Point*, beekeeping with *Bees' Needs* in *Amagansett*.

Peconic Land Trust Celebrates Suffolk County's Landmark Farmland Preservation Program and the Farmers Who Made it Happen



there were 120,000 acres of farmland in production in Suffolk County – by 1974, the acreage had dropped to 60,000 acres.



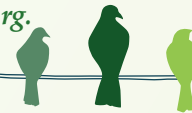
Historic photos courtesy of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

The Peconic Land Trust honored farm families who were instrumental in the establishment of Suffolk County's landmark Farmland Preservation Program at our annual Through Farms & Fields Country Supper on Sunday, August 5th. The supper was held at Salt Air Farm in Cutchogue where a sold-out crowd celebrated ongoing land conservation efforts on Long Island.

Established in 1974, Suffolk County's program was the first of its kind to purchase development rights on farmland, an idea that has spread across New York and 25 other states. Initiated by former Suffolk County Executive John V.N. Klein, the program was designed to preserve Long Island's farms and farmland in the face of rising real estate values, increased estate taxes, and extraordinary development pressures. In 1950,

The families honored include names that are very familiar on Long Island – **Corwith, Cross, Halsey, Latham, Reeve, Talmage, Wesnofske, and Wickham.** Members of these families shaped the program at its inception and were among the first to protect their land from residential development through the sale of development rights. To date, there are about 39,000 acres of farmland in Suffolk County, with the County program having protected nearly 11,000 and an additional 10,000-plus by various Town, State, and private conservation efforts, including the Peconic Land Trust. About 18,000 remain unprotected.

To learn more about Suffolk County's Farmland Preservation Program contact Melanie Cirillo at MCirillo@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Field Notes from Stewardship

Bees Make a Home in Eastport

Our Farms for the Future leasing program brought in two new beekeeping operations over the summer at the Raynor/Dibble Preserve in Eastport: Bonac Bees and Sag Harbor Honey!

Beekeepers Deb Klughers of Bonac Bees and John and Sophia Witzenbocker of Sag Harbor Honey had productive years – and working with them, we are continuing to enrich the soil in support of these important partners in the agricultural cycle. This fall, Land Steward Brendan Minogue was out in the fields planting a five-variety mix of clover: Bee Seed Mix. The mix blooms continuously over the course of the summer season, providing pollinators – and in particular BEES – with an on-going source of food.



The bees have gone into their winter hibernation . . . but we look forward to their return to active production in 2019! - John Witzenbocker

For more information on this diverse and evolving project contact Dan Heston at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Through Farms & Fields

Salt Air Farm, Cutchogue, New York, August 5, 2018

honoring the farm families who launched the
Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Program



In 2018, We Are Grateful to . . .

We thank all our supporters, at any level of giving, for joining us in looking towards a future that values the working farms, natural lands and the heritage we all share. If you are interested in learning more or supporting the Trust, please contact Director of Development, Amanda Abraham at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

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Peconic Legacy Circle members have let us know their intention to remember the Trust in their estate planning. Legacy gifts are among the most meaningful ways to ensure that Long Island's beautiful beaches, clean water, working farms, majestic woodland and pristine wetlands will be protected for generations to come.

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Through Farms & Fields

August 5, 2018

Salt Air Farm, Cutchogue, NY



Hosted by:

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Honoring: **the farm families who
helped launch the Suffolk County
Farmland Preservation Program**

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A special thanks to
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for their support of the
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honor of environmentalist,
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