



PECONIC LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

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Photo: Jeff Heatley

Preservation Effort Expanded in Fort Corchaug Area

Efforts to protect lands surrounding the Fort Corchaug National Historic Landmark in the Town of Southold reached another milestone in January of this year when the Peconic Land Trust completed a conservation project which protected an additional 54 acres of the historic "Downs Farm" in Cutchogue. The project required the participation and involvement of members of the family of Dr. Victor Ginsberg, owners of the property for the past 20 years; Carolyn and Russell McCall, owners of adjacent property who protected portions of the sensitive Fort Corchaug property in 1997 and 1998; and the Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Program.

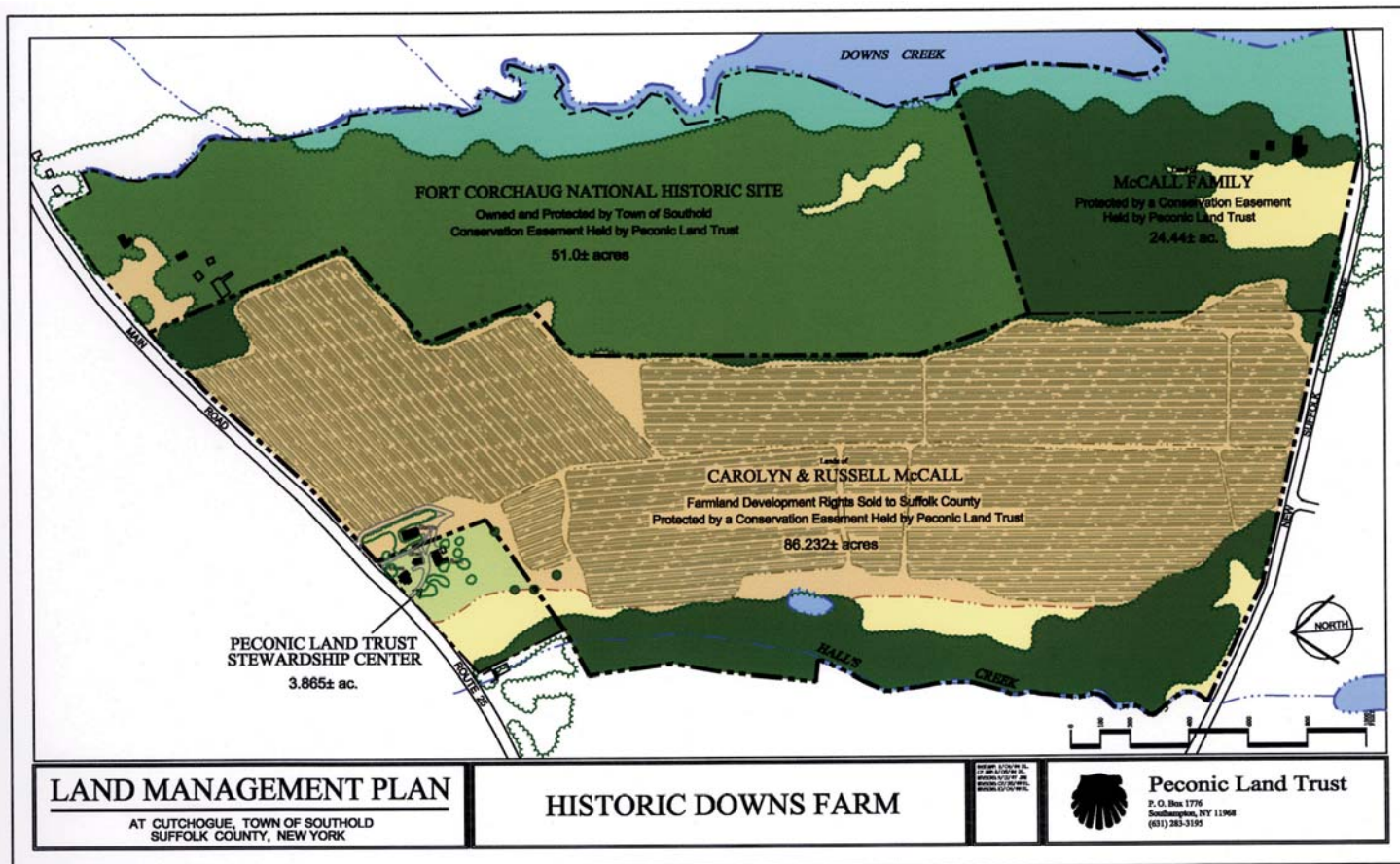
Shortly after the completion of the initial conservation effort that protected Fort Corchaug in 1997, the Peconic Land Trust met with Marvin Brown, Dr. Ginsberg's son-in-law, to discuss the family's plans for the future use, ownership, and management of their portion of "Downs Farm." Dr. Ginsberg, who already owned a home on Shelter Island and was very familiar with the North Fork, originally purchased the property as an investment. At one point, he took steps to start up his own vineyard, but the project never got off the ground. When the family planned to sell their property, they decided to work with the Trust to create a plan that would be in line with their respect and apprecia-

tion for the land, yet fully provide for the family's financial goals.

Last December, the family generously donated 3.8 acres of their farm to the Peconic Land Trust. The donation parcel includes a single-family residence and an historic barn that will be the future home of Peconic Land Trust's "Stewardship Center" for the North Fork. The remaining 47 acres, located to the west of the Fort property, were sold to Carolyn and Russell McCall who plan to add the acreage to the newly established McCall Vineyards. With the cooperation of both the Ginsberg family and the McCalls, the Peconic Land Trust arranged a simultaneous closing with

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Preservation Effort Expanded....(continued from cover)



Suffolk County to purchase the farmland development rights on all of the remaining acreage, thereby reducing the cost of the transaction. Suffolk County has protected more than 1,326 acres of working farmland in the Town of Southold in similar projects through its

Farmland Preservation Program.

As the result of this important conservation effort, a contiguous area of almost 155 acres between Downs Creek and Halls Creek, and comprising much of what used to be known as "Fort Neck," is now preserved in perpetuity. All of us at

the Peconic Land Trust would like to express our thanks and sincere appreciation to the Ginsberg family, the McCall family and to Suffolk County for enabling this significant step towards the preservation of our rural heritage on the North Fork.

Donor Profile: Avis and Richard Reeve

To walk into the kitchen of Avis and Richard Reeve is to take a step into the heart and soul of the North Fork farming community. It's not just that their house sits on land that has been farmed continuously since the days of the King's land grants, nor even the cozy feeling generated by the enormous wood-burning stove that greets visitors invited into their kitchen. It's their conversation. Lively, shifting constantly, easily from past to present to future, their dialogue is an organic mixture of references to a life full of family, friends, and farming this land. In fact the roots of the Reeve family are deeper and wider than even the Riverhead acreage that stretches from Sound Avenue to the Long Island Sound that this family has collectively decided to preserve as open space.

Richard and Avis Reeve, Richard's sister Dr. Caryl Reeve Granttham, and Richard and Avis's son, Rick, together are preserving approximately 120 acres using the combined tools of purchase of development rights, conservation easement, and a preserve gift. In

the case of Dr. Granttham's parcel, an outright gift of a preserve is written into her will.

The Reeve's story is testimony of what a family of determined individuals can accomplish in the effort to protect a portion of what's left of the agricultural land in Riverhead. It starts with a love of the land, a multifaceted connection to the rich North Fork soil itself that sustained this family and their ancestors.

"We were born farmers," said Richard, speaking of both himself and Avis. "I always wanted to be a farmer's wife," adds Avis. Married 58 years, the two often speak at the same time, frequently completing each other's sentences.

The Reeve's ancestors came to this country from England in the 1600s; an early Reeve served as the third supervisor in the Town of Riverhead, and the family has farmed in Riverhead for generations. Richard and Avis bought land adjoining his family's farm in the 1950s (with the help of Avis' mother, they quickly add). They are

only the fourth owners of that land, originally measured in 16-rod sections when it was granted to the Terry family; and of the house built there in the 1800s. Caryl and Richard grew up on the farm next door in the house their parents built, now owned by Richard's son, Rick, and his wife. (Richard and Avis' daughter lives upstate New York with her husband.) Rick and his wife still farm the family land, selling their vegetables at the Reeve farm stand, as well as operating a commercial greenhouse there. Dr. Caryl Granttham lives just a stone's throw east of Rick on the 20+ acres she inherited from her parents.

However, it is not just their roots that Richard and Avis seek to maintain. Though their memories of growing up on farms are vivid – Avis grew up a Tuthill, whose family farmed off Sound Avenue as well – their motivations to keep this acreage agricultural are complex. The family is ensuring they have a say in the future of this community, and in the process they are making certain that they and their children are taken care of.

They first heard of the idea of preserving the land years ago, and vacillated back and forth, even considering selling the property at one time. "A lot of farmers say to hell with it," notes Richard. "You never make a huge amount of money in farming – one year you do well then the next you don't...At one time I farmed 300 acres, different parcels, growing strawberries, cauliflower, broccoli, potatoes, and pumpkins...but once commercial farming was no longer profitable..." His voice trails off. "Why did we decide to 'give away' a million dollars worth of shorefront acres?" he asks rhetorically. "It's the land...It's so important to preserve it."

"It's the way of life," adds Avis. Their way of life is grounded in the earth, in the delight they've shared in growing things – the jumble of fading County Fair ribbons given Richard for his prize pumpkins, and the myriad antique farm tools hanging on the walls tell that story. It is based in deep and abiding friendships that started when they met in high school. First and foremost, it is about family and that, in the preservation of their farmland, lies their legacy.

What Richard and Avis foresaw is that upon their death their son and daughter would have been liable for overwhelming estate taxes. Their land, zoned as one-acre lots, would have had an astronomical

value. By selling their development rights now they not only receive an infusion of cash, but they save their children's inheritances, and the land remains in agricultural use in perpetuity, in accordance with their wishes. To offset the capital gains taxes that would have been due on the sale of development rights, they also gave a gift to the Peconic Land Trust of a conservation easement and plan to give the restricted land to the Trust. Although the Reeves retain ownership, the acreage can never be sub-divided for residential development. Once it becomes a preserve, it will be the Trust's responsibility to manage the property. Because the Reeves have both sold and given away their development rights as property owners, their property tax bill may be reduced in the future. Rick and his wife will be able to continue farming for as long as they desire, also with the potential benefit of a reduction in their property tax bill.

Avis and Richard talk of a need for "balance in nature," a quality that seems lost in the rush of traffic east to find the vanishing rural North Fork. Richard points to the blue haze on the horizon that most visitors probably don't notice. This silhouette of pollution is a clear signal to him that life here is getting out of balance. "It's Sunday afternoon, get out of my way," is Richard's phrase for the prevalent attitude.

However, the Reeves are pragmatists as well. Their abiding love for farming is not born of a milky-eyed nostalgia for the past even if their dialogue is sprinkled with memories of driving their crops to auction in Riverhead and dancing Friday nights with the old gang at the Bavarian Inn in Ronkonkoma. Their decision to preserve this historic farmland in a town that is otherwise getting swallowed by mega-stores and residential developments comes out of years of hard labor that deserves some recognition.

Asked if they would recommend working to preserve open space with the Trust to other farming families, they answer a resounding "yes." "If they enjoy the country life they've always had, it's fast going away. People need to be educated about nature, says Avis. "If people love Long Island, then we need to work to preserve what we still have."

Suzanne Donovan

What motivates a North Fork farming family that could realize a windfall profit selling their land—conceivably more money than they've made in their entire lives—to choose to preserve that land, to reject the promise of becoming almost-instant millionaires? Certainly, creating a legacy can be a powerful motivating force. But individuals and families must be pragmatic, and such major decisions are always more complex, reflecting a wide range of human emotions and motivations. Private conservation efforts cannot succeed without a combination of strong personal values, community ties, and the conviction that it is possible both to save the land and to provide for the next generation. The story of the Reeve family is the first in a series profiling Peconic Land Trust donors and demonstrating how individual landowners have asserted control over the future use of their property, and their motivation to preserve open space in the face of economic pressures to do otherwise.



Photo: Jeff Heatley

(l. to r.) Avis Reeve, Richard Reeve, and Dr. Caryl R. Granttham.

Donor Profile: Dr. Caryl Granttham

"In wilderness is the preservation of the world." Henry David Thoreau

On the face of it, two members of the same family couldn't be more dissimilar. While her brother Richard chose to farm the land, Caryl Reeve followed another family path, first to Barnard College/Columbia University where she got her undergraduate degree and then onto New York University where she earned a doctorate in History. Dr. Caryl Reeve Granttham chose a separate road in life, yet she and Richard have converged at the same point, which is to plan for the stewardship of their family's farmland, preserving it for generations to come.

Caryl, named after her mother's favorite professor, naturally grew up on the farm as well. As a little girl she learned to mow grass when it was still done under the old-fashioned kind of horsepower, as well as a love of plants and gardening. Her greenhouse is full of camellia, geranium, impatiens and more. She still tends to the English country-style plot that was her father's garden, and she has a bonsai garden in the back of the house. She also developed a keen sense of history, felt strongly about formal education, and left the farm to pursue her degrees. But the farm never left her.

She met her husband, Earl Granttham, in Washington Square in New York City; they were married in 1943. For a while they split their time between the city and the farm in Riverhead, then in the mid-1950s built what was intended to be their "weekend cottage," next to the Reeve family house. Earl was a trial lawyer and a stockbroker. Dr. Granttham held a string of high-powered jobs, from an editor slot at Prentice-Hall, to serving on the personal staff of the Rockefeller family, to working as public relations and development director at local colleges, and more. Through it all, she's been a civic activist.

Despite her petite stature, Dr. Granttham is a fighter for causes. She spent her adult life promoting an appreciation of local history as well as preserving nature. She describes her efforts as "behind the scenes," yet she works in the public arena when necessary, for example, when she intervened in the lawsuit to block LILCO's development of a nuclear power plant in Jamesport. She is proud to say she's been called an "agginer" (against all progress), at various points in

her advocacy career. She was also a prime mover behind the Riverhead Fresh Pond school that offers local history programs to school children, and helped to get Sound Avenue designated an official historic corridor. It is her combined passion for history and love of nature that have fueled her efforts.

The portion of the Reeve land that Dr. Granttham inherited includes open, agricultural land, pristine woodlands, and a stunning bluff overlooking the Long Island Sound. At one point, the family built a small cabin near the Sound to spend summer nights. She says her ancestors pastured sheep on this land, and grew Locust trees, but the 1938 hurricane took down the shallow-rooted trees.

Dr. Granttham and her late husband Earl decided more than 20 years ago that they wanted this land to remain forever wild. She has left her 20+ acres to the Trust as a testamentary gift so that, when she passes away, the land and her cottage will pass to the nonprofit to administer. She would like to ensure some public access to the preserve. Along with the farmland of Richard and Avis, and Rick, hers will make up a preserve along the Sound that is virtually invaluable. She hopes that by donating her land she can set an example, encouraging others to act.

In describing her motivation to preserve this spectacular acreage, she talks of acting as a steward, describing it as a basic life philosophy, the "roots of my existence – it's about a unique feeling of where (my) roots are." "My father had a sense of stewardship (about the land)," said Dr. Granttham. "I grew up understanding what it means."

"There's a quality in all of us that wants peace and quiet," Caryl said. "If you don't have nature – if you overbuild and over-stress the land, you lose a fundamental part of yourself." This land has been in the Reeve family, and in its blood it seems, for generations. Caryl notes the name Reeve is a title meaning "carrier of the King's justice." There is some poetic symmetry here, as Caryl fought for a sense of justice throughout her life. And justice in the Reeve family finally comes down to preserving forever the essential character of their beautiful piece of earth.

Suzanne Donovan

Conservation Tool: Purchase of Development Rights

Local municipalities and Suffolk County have Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs designed to protect farmland. Through these programs, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell all, or a portion of, the development rights on his or her land to a municipality.

1. The landowner retains ownership and the right to farm, sell, and pass the land on to heirs. A sale of development rights provides cash to the landowner.
2. Participation in a PDR program is voluntary and is initiated by a letter from the landowner expressing an interest in selling development rights to the local Town or to the County.
3. Following an appraisal by a certified real estate appraiser, the municipality offers the landowner a per-acre price based on the appraisal.
4. As with the sale of any real estate, the landowner's participation in the program is not legally binding until he has accepted the offer and a contract has been signed.
5. The purchase of development rights may also be combined with other land conservation tools such as limited development, a

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bargain sale, a gift of a conservation easement on other lands, or a gift of land in fee. Depending on the individual circumstances of the landowner, a combination of conservation techniques may be more financially beneficial to the landowner.

6. Because the value of the land is reduced, the estate taxes that heirs must pay on this asset will also be less. Of course, the cash proceeds from the sale will be included in the landowner's gross estate, unless these funds are spent prior to the landowner's death or placed in a charitable remainder trust at the outset.
7. Depending on the basis, the landowner may be subject to capital gains tax on the sale proceeds unless a like-kind exchange is a component of the sale, thus deferring capital gains to the future.

Ed. Note: Purchase of Development Rights is explained, along with other conservation tools, in the Trust's booklet "Options for Landowners." Farmland owners may contact Hoot Sherman, Director of Public Programs for Peconic Land Trust, at (631) 283-3195 for a copy of this booklet, or if they have questions regarding the Trust's land conservation work.

Amagansett House Donated to Trust

A small ranch house, formerly located on Hand Lane in Amagansett was moved in February to its new home at the Trust's 92-acre Accabonac Preserve on Springs Fireplace Road. Designed by Robert C. Johnston in 1956 for use as his family's summer home, it was donated by Mr. Johnston's widow, Charlotte, his daughter Barbara Adams and granddaughter Hilary Adams. Their generous donation has solved an annual problem of finding affordable housing for summer interns at the Trust's Quail Hill Farm. The house will also serve as an office for the Trust's stewardship activities in East Hampton Town.



From Quail Hill Preserve . . .

Perched on a high apple limb, swaying and pruning (good late winter work), I heard the sustained rattle of the first red wing blackbirds...news that another season is approaching. The rye grass, on hold during the freeze of February, begins to green, and garlic shoots up through the cracked silt loam. The evening light is luminous, feeding reality with clarity. Our upper greenhouse is readied and warm, the first onions were seeded in early March. The greenhouse is filled with trays of leeks, scallions, snapdragons, the first lettuce, early tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant. We are fortunate this year to have our third greenhouse which will house the overflow of seedlings, before we transplant into the fields in late April and May. Thanks to the work

of our Beeman, Tony, our bees have survived the winter, and the mites. Tony carefully pasted the entrance to each of the four hives with wintergreen and spearmint oil; each worker bee, upon entering the hive, absorbs some oil, which serves to repel the destructive mites. If you enter a greenhouse after we've watered, you will encounter some of these bees, searching for a drink. Soon the apple orchard will fill with a chorus equal to the quality of the light. Now, as we climb from branch to branch, we hear the first calls of returning birds, and we long for wings, or at least the balance of lightness.

Scott Chaskey, Quail Hill Preserve Manager.

A special thanks to Charlton Halsey for his donation of a GMC flatbed truck! Ed note: The cost of a summer share at the Trust's organic cooperative farm is \$565 (plus an additional \$100 one-time assessment for new members). The first harvest day is June 3 and the season extends to the end of October. Fees may be charged to MasterCard or Visa. For more information and an application, please call Pam Greene at (631) 283-3195.

Behind the scenes . . .

Preserve Manager Scott Chaskey (the one in overalls, back to our camera) observes cast and crew of Pollock, a film on the artist's life, as they prepare to shoot a scene in Amagansett last spring. A sought-after East End location for film production companies and magazine editors, Quail Hill Preserve benefits from the location fees.



1999 Conservation Accomplishments

1999 was a banner year for Peconic Land Trust's land conservation work. We played an integral role in the protection of over 585 acres of land on behalf of Suffolk County, five East End Towns and four Villages, primarily through the purchase of development rights and open space. In addition, 171 acres of open space and farmland were protected through gifts of land and conservation easements in the Towns of Brookhaven, East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton and Southold.

Town of Southampton PDR

Gaston/Sikorski/Pillsworth

The Town purchased the development rights on 33.7 acres in Southampton's Agricultural Overlay District. The site includes prime agricultural soils and is actively farmed. Through this project, the allowable density of 18 residential lots was reduced to 3.

Town of Southampton PDR

Zaluski

The Trust negotiated the Town's purchase of development rights on 52 acres, located in the Town's Agricultural Overlay District, owned by the Zaluski family. The remaining acreage of their 71-acre site, least productive from an agricultural

perspective, was subdivided into 9 residential lots, including the existing farmhouse and barns. The site had an allowable density of 32 residential lots.

Garcia Preserve

Adjoining the Trust's Stern Preserve on Shelter Island, this 1.25-acre parcel was donated to the Trust and then re-conveyed to the Town of Shelter Island.

Town of Southampton PDR

Grattan/Hand

Having acquired 10 acres from the Grattan and Hand families, the Trust sold development rights on 10 acres of prime agricultural land to the Town of Southampton that had a development potential of 4 homes. Located on Montauk Highway in Water Mill, the site is a well-known scenic viewshed for residents and visitors to the area. The protected acreage was then sold to Raymond Halsey and his family who farm other acreage in Water Mill and operate the Green Thumb, a local farm stand in Water Mill.

Suffolk County PDR

Joshua's Place

17 acres of agricultural land fronting Montauk Highway in Water Mill was pro-

TECTED through the creative use of like-kind exchanges as envisioned by Bill Platt, Esq. and the purchase of development rights by Suffolk County. The Trust worked closely with all the parties to facilitate the completion of the project.

Town of Southampton PDR

Halsey

The Trust negotiated the Town's purchase of development rights on 9.3 acres on David White's Lane and Seven Ponds Road in Southampton. The parcel contains prime agricultural soil and is actively farmed.

Shelter Island Nursery Preserve

With the help of a group of conservation investors, the Trust purchased this key 25-acre site located on the prime aquifer of Shelter Island. The Trust worked with the Town of Shelter Island to develop a 4-lot concept plan that includes one building lot, one nursery lot, one lot subject to a conservation easement, and a 17-acre parcel that will be owned by both the Town of Shelter Island and Suffolk County.

Town of Riverhead PDR and Easement

Reeve

The Richard N. Reeve family protected 61.9 acres of prime farmland, north of Sound Avenue in Northville, through the sale of development rights to the Town of Riverhead. The Town also purchased development rights on an adjacent 8.5-acre parcel farmed by Richard L. Reeve. Simultaneously, the Reeves gave a conservation easement to the Trust on 27 acres of meadow and woodland overlooking Long Island Sound. This easement reduces the development potential from 4 units to 2.

Suffolk County PDR

Karen's Kettle Preserve

With assistance from the Trust, Arnold Schotsky protected a portion of his 166 acres in Aquebogue by selling the development rights on 65 acres to Suffolk County. A limited development plan for the remainder includes a 27+ acre wooded parcel that has been given to the Trust and will be protected in perpetuity.



This significant farmland vista in Water Mill could have been developed, but was protected through a cooperative conservation effort including Joshua's Place, the Grattan and Hand families, Peconic Land Trust, the Green Thumb, Town of Southampton, and Suffolk County. Development rights on 27 acres were acquired by both the Town and the County.

Town of Riverhead PDR

Zaweski

Mark Zaweski and Emilie Zilnicki protected 29 acres of farmland in Aquebogue through the sale of development rights to the Town of Riverhead. The property is located east of Church Lane in an area adjacent to many properties already protected through Suffolk County PDR sales. Mr. Zaweski and Ms. Zilnicki are planning to plant the acreage in nursery stock.

Laurel Lake Acquisition

The Trust assisted Suffolk County in protecting acreage in Mattituck that is located in the Southold Special Groundwater Protection Area. Acquisition of the two parcels, which total 55 acres and adjoin Laurel Lake, protects both the drinking water supply and the lake itself, a significant wildlife habitat. In addition, the acreage adjoins roughly 70 acres owned by the Suffolk County Water Authority on the lake's eastern side.

Dam Pond

The Trust assisted Southold Town and Suffolk County in the acquisition of a significant 21.6-acre site overlooking Dam Pond on the north side of the Orient causeway. This scenic parcel was slated to be divided into 4 building lots. Through the cooperative efforts of the County, Town and landowners, an environmentally sensitive parcel and beautiful vista will be protected forever.

Dam Pond preservation postscript...the following is an excerpt of a letter received from Trust supporters Shirley and Bob Bayley:

"Although we have been full-time residents of Montana for 3 1/2 years now (and love it by the way) we were delighted to receive your Fall 1999 newsletter. The picture and article about Dam Pond in East Marion evoked strong memories. As residents of Lakeview Terrace in East Marion, we delighted in walking in the woods and on the shoreline around Dam Pond, for this was our mini-wilderness getaway. It is a truly wild, beautiful and peaceful place where wildness and natural critters seem to dominate. Thank you for your tenacious work in helping to preserve this wondrous place. Keep up the good work!"



View of Ginsberg Preserve.

Switzer Preserve

Hugh Switzer donated three building lots in the Goldsmith's Inlet area of Peconic, eliminating potential development and preserving existing wetlands and wildlife habitat. These lots view protected parkland across the Inlet that is owned by Suffolk County.

Town of Riverhead PDR

Cal-Hollow Farms

The owners of Cal-Hollow Farms protected 25.4 acres in Calverton through the sale of development rights to the Town of Riverhead. This prime farmland is located north of Reeves Avenue and is surrounded by acreage protected by Suffolk County. This transaction represents the fifth purchase of development rights by the Town of Riverhead with the assistance of the Trust.

Stone Easement

Peter and Mary Stone donated a conservation easement on 19.2 acres in Amagansett, located in the Town of East Hampton's water recharge overlay district. The easement reduces the yield from 9 residential lots to just one exist-

ing residence and creates an open space area of 16.2 acres of prime agricultural soils. In addition, this easement protects critical groundwater, important wildlife habitat and scenic woodland vistas.

St. John II Easement

Lynn St. John granted the Trust a conservation easement on a 1.5-acre parcel in Sagaponack, reducing the allowable density from one unit to none. This scenic site is currently planted with orchard stock and is an important open space parcel in Sagaponack, given its proximity to Sagg Pond.

Ginsberg Preserve

In Cutchogue, the Trust worked with Marvin Brown and Richard Ginsberg to protect 54+ acres of farmland adjacent to the Ft. Corchaug site, which was protected in 1998. In addition to donating 3.8 acres with an existing house and barn to the Trust, they sold the remaining acreage to a conservation-minded buyer who has sold the development rights to Suffolk County, assuring that this acreage will remain farmland.

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1999 Conservation Accomplishments (continued from page 7)

Shedrick Easement

The Trust received a gift of a conservation easement on 54+ acres on Highland Terrace, fronting Sagg Pond, in Bridgehampton. The owner of the property, Daniel C. Shedrick, reduced the potential yield from 17 to 4 units, and created an agricultural reserve area of over 33 acres. The original owner, the Foster family, was able to acquire additional agricultural acreage through a like-kind exchange, as well as a long-term lease on the 33 acres. This “win-win” situation helped a conservation-minded landowner, aided a long-time farm family, protected prime agricultural soils and preserved scenic open space.

Sagg Head Easements

The Trust received a conservation easement on 1.8 acres on Sagg Road, Sagaponack. This parcel joins over 7 acres previously donated by Ngaere Macray Zohn and protected by the Trust. The easement creates a substantial open space area with prime soils that is currently in active agricultural production.

Wellde Preserve

Complementing adjacent protection afforded by the Sagg Head easements, Patricia and George Wellde purchased and donated a 1.8-acre lot on Sagg Road in Sagaponack. This scenic site shall remain undeveloped and protected in perpetuity.

Town of Southampton PDR

Wright

The Trust negotiated the Town’s purchase of development rights on 35.5 acres of prime farmland in East Quogue. The property borders Montauk Highway, Westside Avenue and Box Tree Road.

Town of Southampton PDR

Lyons/Schaefer

The Trust negotiated the Town’s purchase of development rights on 11.4 acres of farmland on North Main Street in Southampton. At the same time, the Town purchased the development rights on an adjoining 12.2-acre agricultural parcel.

Town of Southampton PDR

Griffin

The Trust negotiate the Town’s purchase of development rights on 12.2 acres of prime agricultural farmland located on North Main Street and North Sea Mecox Road. The parcel adjoins 11+ acres of protected farmland. Both parcels are actively farmed.

Town of Southampton Acquisition

Elliston

The Trust purchased 10.8 acres of woodland on Big Fresh Pond Road from the Elliston family through a bargain sale. The Trust then resold the property

to the Town of Southampton. Protection of this site will allow a trail connection from Tuckahoe woods to the south and to the Trust’s Big Fresh Pond Preserve to the north.

Eversley Childs Preserve

Mary Eversley Ogden donated 2.2 acres located in the Village of Old Field just off Crane Neck Point. The Trust’s first project in the Town of Brookhaven, this scenic wooded lot provides a wildlife habitat that overlooks Smithtown Bay.

Kempner Preserve

Thomas L. Kempner, Jr. donated an environmentally sensitive 4 acres on Whites Lane in Tuckahoe to the Trust. This pristine site includes freshwater wetland and provides significant wildlife habitat.

Pearsall Preserve

Working with five conservation-minded landowners, the Trust protected a parcel in Bridgehampton through the sale of a conservation easement to the town of Southampton. The property provides a wildlife habitat as well as a natural drainage area for surrounding land. The Pearsall Preserve will maintain the integrity and special character of this wetland resource and help to retain the rural character of the community.

Tuthill Easement

Village of Sag Harbor

The Village of Sag Harbor received its first gift of a conservation easement on a small parcel, that could have been developed. Instead, through the generosity of a local resident, the site will remain an undisturbed habitat for wildlife.

Suffolk County PDR

Young

Suffolk County purchased the development rights on 75 acres of an 81.3 acre parcel north of Sound Avenue owned by Alberta Young. The gently rolling farmland, which contains prime agricultural soils, has been in active production as a potato farm for nearly a century. This is the last remaining piece of vacant Industrial A (Heavy Industrial) zoned property in the Town of Riverhead.





Photo: Tony Lopez

Along with many individual donors, the KeySpan Energy Foundation assisted the Trust in reaching its 1999 Challenge goal of \$700,000 with this check for \$35,000 which will be paid over two years. Shown here, against a backdrop of the Trust's Phillips Pond Preserve, are Robert G. Keller, KeySpan's Regional Director for Community Development; Marsha Kenny, Trust Director of Development and Communications; David M. Okorn, KeySpan Foundation Grant Administrator; and John v.H. Halsey, Trust President.

Leave a Legacy to Future Long Islanders...

If you would like to extend your support of the Trust's work in protecting farmland and open space on Long Island, you may do so in a variety of ways such as naming the Trust a beneficiary of your IRA or a life insurance policy, for example. If you would like to include a provision in your will to bequeath cash, securities, or other asset property to the Trust, the following language may be used and modified as necessary:

For gifts of real estate

"To the Peconic Land Trust, Incorporated, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1983, having as its principal address 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, New York 11968, I hereby give and devise my real property at (street address here) to Peconic

Land Trust, Incorporated, of Southampton, New York."

For cash gifts

"I give and bequeath \$_____ to Peconic Land Trust, Inc. of Southampton, New York."

For gifts of securities

"I give and bequeath _____ (number of shares) of (name here) common stock to Peconic Land Trust, Inc. of Southampton, New York."

For asset property such as paintings, other artwork, antiques, etc.

"I give and bequeath (description or name of items) to Peconic Land Trust, Inc. of Southampton, New York."

Other Ways to Support Land Conservation

Matching Gifts:

If your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift to the Trust can be doubled or tripled. Please check with your employee benefits office.

Scallop Shell Memorial Gifts

A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to those who appreciated the beauty of Long Island. To make your gift, send your check, along with the name of the person being memorialized, to the Trust. Please indicate the name and address of a family member or friend of the deceased to whom we can send an acknowledgment of your charitable gift.

Special occasion gifts:

Commemorate an anniversary, birthday, wedding or other special occasion with a gift to conservation. The Trust will send a card in your name to whomever you designate (just provide us with a mailing address!).

If you or your attorney would like to discuss a potential bequest, please call Marsha Kenny, Director of Development, at (631) 283-3195. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Elliston Family: A Tradition of Conservation Continues



Gravestone of Ed Elliston at North Sea Cemetery

Emma Rose's father was a 19th century whaling captain. Emma was born in Honolulu, Island of Oahu, in 1856 on a whaling voyage in the ship *Zenas Coffin* of Nantucket. She and her parents returned home in 1857 only to sail again from 1862 to 1865 on the ship *Pacific* of New Bedford. Soon after returning, they left on the ship *Trident* of New Bedford and were at sea between 1865 and 1869. Following this last voyage, she married J. Edward Elliston and lived in Southampton

until her death in 1933. The years spent at sea may have given Emma Rose Elliston an appreciation of *terra firma* because she and her husband enjoyed the natural beauty of the East End landscape and wanted to see it protected. In 1951, Ed Elliston gave the Town of Southampton 128 acres of family land that is now known as Emma Rose Elliston Memorial Park. Located in North Sea, off Millstone Brook Road, the park is a quiet waterfront oasis for the community. Nearby, at the top of the hill, in the Rose family plot in the small North Sea cemetery, are the graves of Emma and Ed Elliston. Emmas's gravestone epitaph says, "Beneath this stone rests a sweet, kindly and unselfish soul" and tells the story of her



View from Emma Rose Elliston Memorial Park, overlooking Big Fresh Pond.

young seafaring life, while Ed's states, quite appropriately, "Sympathy with nature is a part of the good man's religion."

Nearly 50 years later, their grandnephews, Phil, Dave and Fred Elliston, have carried on a family tradition in protecting family land from development. Earlier this year, they sold 10.8 acres to the Peconic Land Trust through a bargain sale (less than fair market value) to assure that the wooded site would be protected in perpetuity. The Trust simultaneously conveyed the property to the Town of Southampton. Protection of this acreage allows for a potential trail link between Tuckahoe Woods and Big Fresh Pond. Adding to the significance of the protection of this site is the fact that the acreage is adjacent to Big Fresh Pond Preserve, acquired by the Peconic Land Trust with donations from area residents in 1986, and the Irving Cohn Preserve, a 1-acre site gifted to the Trust in 1992. Also in the area is the 40-acre Berglund Preserve, given to the Trust by Nils Berglund in 1993. This Preserve includes uplands, saltwater wetlands and marsh overlooking West Neck Creek and Little Sebonac Creek, and is adjacent to Scallop Pond Preserve and other protected acreage. In 1998, the Trust acquired 5 acres of wetland property on Little Sebonac Creek, now known as the William C. and Elizabeth S. Lester Preserve, which is also adjacent to the Berglund Preserve. With this recent Town acquisition, the Ellistons have added another piece to lands already protected and managed by the Trust, the Town of Southampton, The Nature Conservancy and landowners with strong conservation interests.



Visiting land formerly owned by the Elliston family that was recently sold to the Trust and conveyed to the Town of Southampton are (l. to r.) Trust President John v.H. Halsey, Dave Elliston, and Town of Southampton Supervisor Vince Cannuscio.



Monument at Emma Rose Elliston Memorial Park, dedicated to the residents of Southampton Town in 1951.



Thanks to the generosity of Sponsors and donors, the Trust's 1999 Challenge raised more than \$700,000 to fund our conservation and stewardship programs for the coming year. Two donors, Scott and Julia Osler of Cutchogue, made a very special gift to the 1999 Challenge. They donated Scott's winnings from his 2nd Place finish in the Long Island Golf Association Tournament of Club Champions. In their own words, the Oslers are "passionate about preserving the beauty and serenity of the East End." Ditto from all of us! The goal for Challenge 2000, our biggest ever, is \$800,000. If you would like to participate as a Sponsor this year, please contact Marsha Kenny at (631) 283-3195.

PLT People recent staff promotions and additions include:

Promotions

Vanessa CRAIGO, *Development Associate*
 Pam GREENE, *Stewardship Coordinator*
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 Tiffany LIEBLING, *Project Associate*
 Janet SCHUTT, *Administrative Associate*
 Maria SOCKO, *Finance Associate*
 Julie ZAYKOWSKI, *Executive Associate*

Staff additions

Bobby BASCOMB, *Project Apprentice*
 Denise MARKUT, *North Fork Stewardship Manager*
 Michael D. SHANNON, *Design Manager*
 Scott H. WILSON, *Project Assistant*

Congratulations to all!



A plaque designating the Fort Corchaug Archeological Site as a National Historic Landmark is located at the entrance to the site on Route 25 in Cutchogue. Those attending the official dedication ceremony included (l. to r.) Robert Grumet, chief archeologist for the National Park Service; Tim Caufield, Trust Vice President; Jean Cochran, Southold Town Supervisor; Myra Case, who was instrumental in initiating preservation of the site; Ralph Solecki, Cutchogue native, and anthropologist who wrote the definitive thesis on the site; and Jim Grathwohl, chairman of The Old House Society and member of the Fort Corchaug Management Committee.



Development Associate Vanessa CRAIGO under the "Big Top," at the Peconic, the annual potluck picnic to thank supporters of the Trust's conservation work. Thanks to the hospitality of the Salm family, the event took place on the grounds of the "Port of Missing Men" in North Sea on June 10.

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Mission Statement

The Peconic Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of farmland and open space on Long Island. To this end, the Trust acquires and manages land as well as easements for conservation purposes. In addition, the Trust assists farmers and other landowners in the identification and implementation of alternatives to full-yield development.

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