

PECONIC LAND TRUST



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

ISSUE NO. 10

The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

SUMMER 2020

Community Outreach

Farm-to-Food Pantry: New Partnership between Quail Hill Farm & Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreational Center

Grant from AFTEE / LICF and donors
jump starts new, innovative program.



Jim Lemon, Photographer

Our thanks go out to **The Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center** (The Center), **All For The East End** (AFTEE) and the **Long Island Community Foundation** (LICF) for their trust in us as we embark on an innovative new Farm-to-Food Pantry pilot program.

Beginning in July, the Trust's Quail Hill Farm began providing produce to The Center's food pantry at no cost to The Center. Funding to underwrite this effort was initiated by a \$25,000 grant from AFTEE's "Feed the Need" program, along with an anonymous donation from two Quail Hill Farm CSA members. In total, this 18-week program will cost \$55,000, and the AFTEE grant and initial donations generously started us with a combined \$30,000. Additional donations from members of the Trust and Farm community have now raised the total \$55,000 initial budget.

We thank everyone for their generosity.

"We are so excited about this unique community partnership. Before the pandemic, our food pantry was feeding approximately *70 individuals per month*. We are now feeding about *450 individuals per week*.

The need is great, and the heart of this community is rising to the occasion. We are so grateful to AFTEE and LICF. This will be such a blessing for our families. Thank you," said The Center's Executive Director Bonnie Michelle Cannon in June.



Since that time, the need at The Center has only grown. In August, The Center has noted that they are feeding upwards of 700 people a week.

We continue to accept additional donations to support this ongoing program beyond the initially funded 18-weeks. Please consider joining us with a donation



to bring Quail Hill Farm to our neighbors in the community impacted by COVID-19.

"We are delighted to help this ambitious pilot program and we hope it serves as a model for other farms to participate in helping our pantries," said AFTEE Board President, Claudia Pilato. "Our hope is that the Quail Hill Farm to Food Pantry Program will grow each year and it will be joined by other farms providing fresh local produce to those who do not have easy access to healthy food."

To learn more about this innovative partnership, connect with Quail Hill Farm's Director, Layton Guenther at LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org. If you would like to support this vital community program, contact Alison Delaney at ADelaney@PeconicLandTrust.org.

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS EXCERPTS FROM OUR E-NEWSLETTER SERIES. TO STAY UP TO DATE VISIT OUR BLOG AND PLACES TO VISIT PAGES ON OUR WEBSITE: PECONICLANDTRUST.ORG

Preserve Updates

Connecting Everyone to Nature at Wolf Preserve

When Lenore Wolf donated her 23-acre property to the Peconic Land Trust, she wanted to create a space where “people would have a place to breathe and renew



their connection to the land.” Thanks to a generous donation of \$50,000 from a New York-based foundation, the Trust’s goal of creating an accessible trail system at Wolf Preserve in Southold has begun. As many of us have discovered over the past several months, time spent outside in nature makes us feel

calmer and happier. Many studies have shown just how important it can be to our health and well-being.

This is especially true for those facing physical and sensory disabilities. People with mobility and cognitive restrictions have the hardest time enjoying the outdoors, due to the access barriers that exist in so many public parks and preserves. The Trust’s Wolf Preserve is the perfect place for an accessible trail system. Once the project is complete, the trails will cross freshwater wetlands, meadows and woodlands. The estimated total cost of this project is \$2.8 million.

The Trust wants to honor Lenore’s wishes by creating a place that is more accessible and where more people can connect with nature.

Please consider a gift to help make Lenore’s wishes possible.

If you would like to learn more about the accessible trail at Wolf Preserve, contact Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship at MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Amanda Abraham, Director of Development at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

The Largest American Chestnut Tree resides at the Trust’s Silver Beech Preserve

Did you catch “Helping the American Chestnut Survive,” Mike Bottini’s column in the papers of The Express News Group in June?

In the story, Mike visits the Trust’s Silver Beech Preserve in Amagansett.

“Last weekend, I hiked into Amagansett’s Stony Hill forest preserve to check on the largest American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) that I’m aware of on the South Fork.”

He talks about a fungus, introduced around 1890, that decimated the North American population of trees that once made up 25% of the forests from Maine to Georgia, including here on Long Island.

And, about how dedicated volunteers from Seatuck Environmental Association and Save the Great South Bay — led by naturalists John Potente and co-directors of the American Chestnut Foundation’s Long Island Chapter, Frank Piccinnini and Niko Nantsis — are working to restore the American Chestnut population here on Long Island.

To read the complete article, visit www.27east.com. If you would like to find out how you can be part of the restoration process, contact Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship at MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.



The more common Beech leaf (left) and Chestnut leaf (right). Mature chestnut leaves are approximately the same width but significantly longer and have more pronounced “teeth” along the leaf margin or edge. Photos courtesy of Mike Bottini.



New shoots sprouting from the root collar.



To Our Community

Special Note from John:

I emailed the following letter to our community on June 9, 2020. The challenges facing our country, community, and each of us as individuals continue. The pandemic, racism, social strife, and political divisions feed the uncertainty of this time. Yet, in the midst of this, the Trust is busier today than it has ever been. We are still actively conserving and

restoring land as well as providing opportunities for people to stay connected to the land and our work. But we are also engaging with more members of our community in new ways as exemplified in this newsletter. We want to be relevant to everyone in our community. This requires a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. We are at the beginning of this journey and look forward to understanding and addressing the biases that we hold in ourselves and in our work. But actions speak louder than words – please be patient as we step forward to serve everyone, as individuals and as a valued community institution. Yours, John



Today, our hearts break for George Floyd and his family as he is laid to rest. But what he has awakened in us provides the catalyst for change and the promise of a country and world that celebrates diversity, respects all people, recognizes the fragility of Mother Earth, and commits itself to peace. We each have a stake in a better future – we must act on it starting today.

We are at a pivotal moment in our lives, our country, and our world. As an organization, the Peconic Land Trust must accept our responsibility to be relevant to everyone in our community. We must acknowledge that land is the foundation of power, and that access to land is critical to the health, safety, and prosperity of all people.

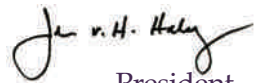
Although still apart due to COVID-19, I am confident that all of us at the Peconic Land Trust, as colleagues and human beings, were shocked and dismayed to witness the murder of George Floyd 15 days ago. Captured by 17-year-old Darnella Frazier on her cell phone camera, his would be just another name on the long list of casualties had she not been there.

We must also recognize our strengths and weaknesses as an organization, and recommit ourselves to understand, and address, the inequities that exist around us. We must reflect our diversity, commit ourselves to equity, and be inclusive by better serving everyone in our community. Our actions must speak louder than our words.

While George Floyd has been laid to rest today, my eyes remain wide open to the systematic abuse of power and disproportionate application of force on our Black American friends and neighbors. The imperative today is to embrace the pain of this moment and join the refrain that Black Lives Matter. This is not at the expense of others whose lives also matter, but rather an acknowledgment of the longstanding injustice against our Black American community.

We do this to honor George Floyd and his family, and all who have suffered from the scourge of racism.

John v.H. Halsey



President

Peconic Land Trust

President@PeconicLandTrust.org



In Memory

New Natural Viewing Area at Edwards Preserve Dedicated to Joe Townsend

The Edwards Farm Preserve was protected through the generosity of over 250 donors in the Town of Southold.

It is the second to last farmland area as one drives to the ferry in Orient. The southern portion hosts wetlands and part of the Orient dike system and is home to much local wildlife!



On the southern-most portion of the preserve, we have created a natural area overlooking Little Bay in honor of the late Joe Townsend. Joe was a former board member of the Trust and a mayor of Greenport, among many other contributions to the community.

The conservation of this farm was something Joe worked hard to see through. It was his energy and commitment that inspired others to see his vision come true. We encourage you to view the farm and visit the memorial. When arriving, use the gate at the western end of the preserve. To ensure the farm parcel and the preserve beyond remain healthy and protected, be sure the gates are firmly closed behind you, and be considerate of the farming equipment, produce, and wildlife.

May Wilson's Gift to Nature & Community



Peconic Land Trust is extremely grateful to the generous supporters who have included the Trust in their will.

One of these very special individuals was May Wilson, who leaves a wonderful legacy. Ms.

Wilson moved to Southampton from Manhattan in the mid 70s. She was

extremely private. Ms. Wilson was a progressive thinker who wanted a better life for everyone.

She made a difference in her own quiet way. She loved and appreciated open space. She helped feed the less fortunate. Ms. Wilson was described as a straight shooter, a good person who loved to laugh and enjoyed watching golf.

Her support of food justice and the conservation of working farms and natural lands is a precious gift for future generations. Ms. Wilson passed away on August 31, 2018.

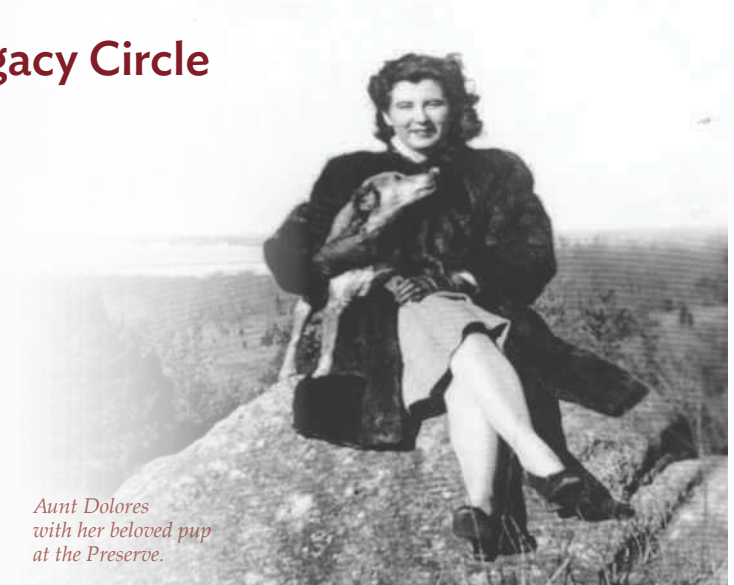
If you would like to learn about how to include the Trust in your estate plans, contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Peconic Legacy Circle

“Almost 20 years ago, my aunt, Dolores Zebrowski, worked with the Peconic Land Trust to facilitate the sale of 75 acres of The Farm to the Town of Southampton. Years later, Dolores added her remaining 10 acres and the farmhouse to what is now known as the Anna and Daniel Mulvihill Preserve.

For many years, East Enders have lamented the loss of our open spaces to rampant development. We are fortunate to have an organization working so hard to save our farms, natural lands, and heritage. Inspired by my aunt, we have made a provision in our will to leave a gift to the Peconic Land Trust. We hope our gift to the Peconic Land Trust will help them to continue their crucial work.”

- Carol Mulvihill Ahlers and Ronald E. Ahlers



Aunt Dolores with her beloved pup at the Preserve.

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 Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org to learn more.

Bridge Gardens

Bridge Gardens Participates in Plant Testing Partnership with Cornell University

Did you know that annual and perennial plant trials are happening on Eastern Long Island as part of Cornell University's research center in Riverhead?

The trial gardens are located at the Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center (LIHREC), 3059 Sound Avenue,

Riverhead. This 68-acre facility is dedicated to serving the research and extension needs of the horticulture industries of Long Island. It includes agricultural fields and research plots, state of the art greenhouses, a nursery and container production area, and a plant tissue culture facility supporting the research projects



ranging from grape and vegetable production to ornamentals and floriculture.

Just a few years ago, Garden Director Rick Bogusch partnered with Dr. Mark Bridgen, Director at LIHREC, to participate in a trial of alstroemeria. This is a perennial best known for beautiful, multi-colored flowers that are long lived in cut flower bouquets.

We caught up with Dr. Bridgen in July and he shared: "Our field alstroemeria this year have been spectacular with the mild winter. Even now in the heat, they are doing well."

From Rick's point of view, "Mark's alstroemerias are wonderful perennials, perfect for non-stop color in flower and shrub borders from June through September. The ones at Bridge Gardens have survived cold and mild winters without extra cover and have grown into large clumps with abundant blooms. They provide long-lasting bouquets for the house during summer and fall."

When you visit the Gardens, look for these robust flowers along the brick pathway on the Mitchell Lane side of the Garden House and Information Center.

You can't miss them!

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

Donor Spotlight

Wendy Lull: For the Love of the Sea



"I give to the Trust in honor of my mother, who was a huge fan of your work. Although my father was transferred often when we were growing up, we always came to The Springs for a few weeks every summer to get our "fix" of the sea.

I credit my father and the clear water of Three Mile Harbor for ending

up a scuba diver and marine biologist. We all loved the water, yet I was the only one in the family (and neighborhood) who would NOT put my face in it. One day, my father, a great one for pointing out critters, was standing in knee-deep water. He called out to me that he could see a crab! Well, of COURSE, I wanted to see it as well, so I went over to him (slowly ... don't scare it) and looked down. I

couldn't see it. He encouraged me to look closer, and closer ... well you can figure out what happened next: I ended up putting my face in the water.

I don't remember whether or not I saw the crab, or even if there was one. I ran up to the house shouting "I put my face in the water!" After that, I was (and still am) more interested in what was going on under water than on top.

I became a research diver, diving on wrecks and reefs in the Pacific – as far away as Fiji – and the Caribbean. I ran a marine science education institution for 25 years, and I am now a bander on a lobster boat in Maine. I continue to visit The Springs and value the conservation efforts of the Peconic Land Trust.

Protected land and open spaces ensure clean water – and a clear mind. Walking along a shore or trail without a house in sight is important to our collective spirits."

Thank you to Wendy and to all of you who encourage young people to explore nature. And don't forget to put your face in the water!

Connecting During the Summer of 2020

This year, we've re-imagined some of our programs on Zoom and video.
All are archived on our website blog: www.PeconicLandTrust.org/blog



Long Island Grown:

Women in Farming: Growing Food on Long Island

Food and Beverage Artisans at Work
From the Sea

Horticulture Innovators

Special Events:

Peconinic: A conversation with
Scott Chaskey and John v.H.
Halsey

Through Farms and Fields
with a special look at our Farms
for the Future Initiative



From Bridge Gardens:

Vegetable Garden Tips with
Rick Bogusch

Composting, Soil Health, Organic Rose
and Lawn Care Workshops with Paul
Wagner

Virtual Garden Tours in the Spring and
Summer Months with Rick and Special
Guests

Conservation Talks:

Coffee and Conversations with
John v.H. Halsey

The Intersection of Art and Conservation
with artists of Plein Air Peconic



Missed Tick Smart on Long Island in September? You can watch it now on our website.
And stay tuned for more upcoming programs throughout the fall.

A Bird's View from Winds Way Farm

Peconic Land Trust board member and avid bird watcher Nancy Gilbert has begun writing a monthly column about her feathered friends, "A Bird's View from Winds Way." Viewed from the Jamesport home she shares with her husband, Richard Wines, the many birds that visit her property provide endless fascination and entertainment. Here are excerpts from her columns:



The Nesting Season: May 27, 2020



By the time you read this, the annual spring migration will be winding to a close. Located as we are on the Atlantic Flyway, one of the true joys of spring is watching and listening for migrating song birds, warblers and shore birds to return to nest and raise their young or to rest and refuel before heading further north.

While May brings

thousands of avian visitors to our shores, woodlands and fields, there is still much to see. The Osprey returned to the North Fork in mid-March and our resident couple is now feeding young. The babies aren't big enough to be seen yet, but they should be visible in a week or so.

The Grey Catbird: June 26, 2020

Lately I've been spending quite a bit of time with catbirds. How is that, you ask? We have at least 3 nesting pairs on our small farm, each with its own distinct territory. And while these birds tend to be solitary and secretive, I've noticed that they often flit around in the shrubs and small trees where I'm gardening, entertaining me with their distinctive cat-like mew as well as their wide-ranging collection of gurgles, whistles and parts of other birds' songs.



For the last several years, we've had a catbird that likes to join us for lunch. Although we can't be sure it's the same bird every year, the arrival date of May 1st has remained the same for three years running. Knowing they are fruit eaters, I started leaving a few grapes on the armrest of my Adirondack chair to see if I could entice the bird closer. And indeed the bird learned to recognize the sound of the kitchen screen door closing as we brought our lunch tray outside.

But much to our surprise, a crumbled chocolate cookie led to the discovery that catbirds, at least our catbirds, far prefer cookie crumbs to grapes! And given a choice, they prefer chocolate cookie crumbs to crumbs from a chocolate chip cookie. This, of course, has totally endeared them to us and means no lunch is complete without a cookie or two because, of course, there must be enough to provide crumbs.

Ospreys: August 3, 2020



It's drizzling this morning – finally, after two months of almost no precipitation – and the Bay is calm. This must mean good fishing as there are two babies on the nest sharing a fish, another baby sitting in the oak tree outside our

kitchen window struggling with a fish whose tail is still flapping, and mom is not far away in the same tree with a fish of her own! Yes, mom and babies are Osprey.

We've been watching this nest closely for almost 30 years and in the process have become attached (I'm sure inappropriately so) to each year's family. But we've also learned a lot about this wonderful species too. "Our" Osprey have always returned around St. Patrick's Day, and this year they arrived together on March 20th in a sure sign that spring was almost here. Samson, the male, usually arrives a few days ahead of his partner, Delilah, and starts adding small branches to the nest. The nest has grown into a very substantial structure. In addition to dead branches, we see both Osprey fly in with clumps of grass, bits of black plastic, and the occasional tangle of abandoned fishing line. The later poses a life-threat as the line can wrap around an Osprey's legs making it impossible for the bird to fly. Because early spring 2020 was so wet, our nest eventually sported a green lawn around the top edge followed by a garden of little daisies.

Interested in reading Nancy's complete columns and enjoying more avian adventures? Please visit www.PeconicLandTrust.org/blog. You can learn more about Winds Way and its history on their website: windswayfarm.com. Happy Birding! Photos by Richard Wines



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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrating 37 years of Conservation



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

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

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

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

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

Follow us...



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

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