



## PROTECTING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF *Dam Pond and its Environs*

Since the mid-1980s, the Peconic Land Trust and its supporters have pursued conservation in Southold. Nothing illustrates this better than our efforts to protect the scenic and historic character of the land surrounding Dam Pond, the 24-acre body of water that sits between Long Island Sound and Orient Harbor in East Marion. Today, over 118 acres of land have been conserved by the Peconic Land Trust working together with Suffolk County, Southold Town, landowners, and partner organizations such as the Oysterponds Historical Society, using a variety of public and private conservation tools.

The Dam Pond conservation area is a prime source of fin and shellfish, and habitat for birds and wildlife—some of which are on New York State’s list of rare and endangered species. The area boasts distinct ecological communities, including rare maritime red cedar forests, oak hickory forests, successional old fields, successional shrubland, freshwater wetlands, coastal salt marshes, a salt shrub community, maritime shrubland and maritime beach communities. The Dam Pond area also serves as an important wintering spot for waterfowl, including buffleheads, horned grebes, and red-breasted mergansers. It provides a home for migratory and summer nesters, including ospreys and a variety of other raptors, warblers, woodpeckers, kinglets and Carolina wrens.

“The conservation of the area around Dam Pond was one of the highest priorities for Southold Town,” said Joseph Townsend, a former Southold Town Councilman and member of the Southold Planning Board, and currently a member of the Peconic Land Trust’s Board of Directors. “Today, this is one of the most recognizable natural areas on Long Island and an important piece of the conservation story in the Town. This was not easy to achieve, as the owners at the time were not necessarily interested in conservation. The Trust, the Town, Suffolk County and local people like Ruth Oliva (see box page 4) stayed the course and worked very hard to achieve the conservation outcome we see today.”

*Continued to page 4*





## President's Letter: John v.H. Halsey

### Reflections

As our 30th Anniversary fast approaches in the New Year, I cannot help but reflect on the very beginnings of the Peconic Land Trust and its evolution over these many years. Indeed, it all began with an idea (*or a seed, if you will*), shared by a few, to reverse the loss of land, and by extension, ways of life that we hold dear to this day.

In the 1970s and 80s, many farmers and landowners found themselves with few options as inheritance taxes, both actual and anticipated, forced the sale of productive, working farms, sensitive shorelines, and diverse woodlands. Few realized that there were more choices than selling their land for development or letting the next generation deal with it. Using a variety of public and private conservation tools, we identified and implemented hundreds of conservation plans based on the needs, circumstances, and goals of landowners (*and their families*) as well as the unique qualities of the land they own. The fruits of these labors have protected land, resources, and people and also brought us Quail Hill Farm, Bridge Gardens, our Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm, and Shellfisher Preserve, to name but a few.

## Board of Directors

### New Members Add Management, Development & Financial Skills

The professional skills of the members of our Board of Directors are key ingredients to the success of the organization. This multi-faceted group provides the Trust's staff with sound advice and counsel, which has led to financial success and stability. The Peconic Land Trust is proud to welcome the following new members to our Board:

- John E. Larkin, CPA/ABV, is a partner with the local firm Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank. He brings over 20 years of financial experience to the Trust including tax, gift and estate planning. John will serve on this Board committee: Finance.
- Ed Krug is a founding partner of the marketing and business development advisory firm PitchBlue Group that assists firms from Fortune 500 to start ups. He brings over 30 years of experience in strategic planning, marketing, communications, and business development. Ed will serve on these Board committees: Philanthropy, Outreach; as well as the Bridge Gardens Advisory Committee.

While the Trust continues its work in land protection, we are engaged in so much more. Our Farms for the Future Initiative is designed to assist new farmers get established as we pursue innovative ways to assure that all farmers have access to affordable farmland for generations to come. Through Trust events and our *Connections* program, we are connecting people of all ages with the very resources that we are dedicated to protect, enhancing a conservation ethic so important to our future. Through our public policy efforts, we pursue legislation at all levels of government that promotes conservation. Whether confronting the ongoing federal estate tax issues, or supporting conservation incentives and land acquisition programs at the State, County, and Town levels, we are fully engaged in public policy.

Today, literally thousands of people are partners in the work of the Trust, from those who contribute generously to our Annual Fund, to landowners contemplating the future of their land, to our highly qualified Board of Directors, extraordinary professional staff, and many volunteers. Our partners also include a wide variety of organizations, public officials, and residents who have made it possible for the Trust to conserve over 10,000 acres on Long Island.

Ultimately, it is you who have grown the Trust from an idea to an effective, dynamic organization (*from a seedling to a tree*). As we enter this Holiday Season, I ask you to reflect on how far we have come, understanding how significant you have been to our success. Yes, there is more to be done - *but with your continued support, we will make it happen!*

- Herb Strobel, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Hallockville Museum Farm. Herb grew up on the family dairy farm in Center Moriches and for nearly 20 years was a tenured professor at the University of Kentucky in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. Herb's extensive knowledge of agriculture, combined with his administrative and strategic planning experiences, will be brought to bear on the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative. Herb will serve on these Board committees: Agriculture, Public Policy.

We look forward to working with John, Ed and Herb, and all of our Board members, for many years to come. 🌱



## Planned Giving

### Conservationist Glenna Jagger's Farming Legacy

By Kathleen Kennedy

*In October 2012, the Trust was very grateful to receive a generous donation from the Estate of Glenna E. Jagger, which will support our efforts to further conserve working farms and natural lands for all communities on Long Island.*

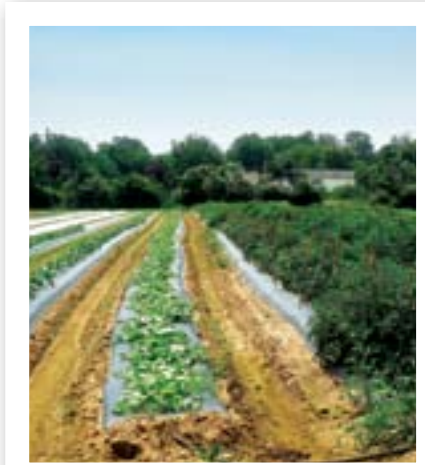


Kathy Kennedy with Glenna Jagger and Hank Kraszewski (2002)

The desire to keep family lands intact, despite tremendous development pressure, is a common theme among local East End farm families. Throughout the nearly 30 years since its inception, the Peconic Land Trust has worked respectfully and conscientiously to see that this goal is reached, often in a creative and strategic manner.

I met Glenna E. Jagger of Southampton in the autumn of 2000, introduced by Hank Kraszewski, who farmed Glenna's land in Southampton. Glenna and Hank had a warm, respectful relationship, as Glenna could see the care and dedication to the land that Hank brought to his work every day. She decided it was time to put into place the means to conserve the remaining acreage of her family's farmlands, originally acquired in 1805, and help keep Hank farming.

Motivated also by a strong desire to support her ancestors' vision and dedication to farming, Glenna embarked on a two-year effort to conserve the lands in cooperation with the Trust, the Village of Southampton, Southampton Town and Suffolk County in one of the first three-way municipal conservation acquisitions accomplished on the South Fork. What remained of the farmland after years of encroaching development was approximately 10.5 acres of land with road frontage on County Road 39 and North Main Street.



Glenna was a pleasure to work with. Intelligent, savvy and patient, she knew this would take time and careful attention to the details involved in crafting a transaction that would meet her goals. Glenna and I worked with her legal advisor on a plan

that included delineating an area around her home on North Main Street and then selling the development rights on the remaining 7.5 acres. The protected farmland could then be sold to Hank, who had been cultivating the land with his berries, melons and sometimes pumpkins over many years. Our first step in the process was to see that the lands were placed into a *Charitable Remainder Trust*, an estate tax-saving planning tool that would allow Glenna to shelter the income from the sale, while benefitting from an income stream generated by the investment of the proceeds of the sale. After two years of coordinating first with the Village, then the Town and finally the County, the stars aligned, the funds were appropriated, and we closed on the sale of the development rights. At the closing table, Glenna turned and smiled at Hank as she signed off on the sale of the protected lands, finally reaching her much-anticipated goal of ensuring that these lands remained in the hands of a local farm family.

Speaking with Hank recently about the success of his farm in Southampton, he remarked, "Glenna was a wonderful person—her dad always said to do all that she could to keep the land in strawberries, and that was her plan. I'm just happy that I can keep that alive, and I hope my son Hank will too, whether in berries, fruit or vegetable production. I have to say, Kathy had a huge influence in putting all the parts together and seeing it come to fruition. Working with the Trust was a great experience, and I think it worked out well for everyone."

While the cultivation of crops on family lands changes from year to year, from potatoes and corn to cauliflower, berries, apples or grapevines, conserving what is left remains the driving force behind the work of the Trust. Glenna Jagger passed away at the very respectable age of 90 at her home in Southampton in May. However, her careful estate planning assured that the conservation story of this long-time Southampton family had a happy ending. 🌱



Paintings of Dam Pond by Plein Air Peconic artists Casey Chalem Anderson (top) and Aubrey Grainger.

### Cove Beach: Where the Story Begins

The Trust's first foray into the Dam Pond area dates back to 1989, working with the Town of Southold to identify conservation options for an area known as Cove Beach, located to the east and west of Cove Beach Road, and immediately to the west of the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond. The Town retained the Trust to explore conservation options for a 98-acre waterfront parcel, a property that had a conditional final approval to build 36 homes. While the full subdivision did not go forward, one of the conservation options identified by the Trust ultimately came to pass in the form of conservation easement gifts to the Trust.

In early 1993, the Cove Beach parcel was acquired by conservation buyers Raoul and Bettina Witteveen with the express intent of donating a conservation easement over portions of the property to the Trust. Between 1995 and 1998, the Witteveens conserved 69 acres of the property and reduced the development potential from 36 to 10 homes. The conservation easement gifts protected rare maritime red cedar forests and oak hickory forests as well as a significant amount of waterfront: 650 feet on Long Island Sound and 450 feet on Dam Pond. (*Lot A on the map, page 5*)

### Dam Pond: The Next Chapter

During the late 1990s, the Trust began negotiating with the owners of a spectacular peninsula in Dam Pond to the south and east of the land protected by the Cove Beach conservation easement. The property had been identified for acquisition in the New York State Open Space Plan and was long coveted as part of the Long Island Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve, the Peconic Bay Maritime Reserve, and the federally designated National Estuary Program. Today it is known as the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond (*formerly the Dam Pond Maritime Reserve*) and is owned jointly by Suffolk County and the Town of Southold.

The 36-acre Ruth Oliva Preserve was initiated through acquisitions by the Trust in two phases:

- In 1998, the Trust acquired 20 acres (*lot B on the map, page 5*) from landowners Joseph Gazza and Bernice Lettieri. Originally divided by deed into four lots, Mr. Gazza and Ms. Lettieri gifted one of the lots and sold the remaining three to the Trust. The Trust immediately sold the entire property to Southold Town and Suffolk County. The acquisition protected critically important waterfront on Dam Pond and became the next piece of the puzzle that has resulted in one of the largest assemblages of protected land on the North Fork.
- In 2002, the Trust initiated a similar acquisition strategy for approximately 16 acres to the south of the Gazza/Lettieri property (*lot C on the map, page 5*). This



### Legend

**A. Cove Beach Easements:** Witteveen Ownership/Peconic Land Trust Easements

**B/C. Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond:** Town Ownership/Town & Country Development Rights

**D. Sonja Stein Preserve:** Peconic Land Trust Ownership

**E. OHS-Ward Easement:** Oyster Ponds Historical Society Ownership/Peconic Land Trust Easement

**F. OHS-Reybine Easement:** Oyster Ponds Historical Society Ownership/Peconic Land Trust Easement

acquisition, which also included two small beach lots on Long Island Sound, provided access to the growing preserve from Main Road. Once again, through the combination of purchase and gift, the Trust acquired the land, this time from Andrew and Bernice Lettieri. However, due to funding constraints at the time, the transfer to the Town and County was delayed. Fortunately, the Trust had the capital necessary to make the purchase using its Peter Jay Sharp Trust Fund for the Environment (*Fund*). The Fund bought time until the final sale to the Town and County could be completed (*see box, page 6*).

### Sonja Stein Preserve: The Most Recent Gift

In March of 2011, the Trust worked closely with the Oysterponds Historical Society (OHS) on a unique effort that further expanded the protected land around Dam Pond by nearly 13 acres including ¼ mile of protected shoreline (*lots D, E, F on the map, below*). This effort began with the bequest of two residential properties to OHS by the Estate of Sonja Stein in 2011. This generous gift was made with the express intent of maintaining the historical integrity of the residences on the properties, while also protecting, forever, the conservation values of the grounds as a nature and wildlife preserve.

Ms. Stein, a supporter of both the Trust and OHS, acquired the two residential properties at different times—the first in 1971 and the second during the late 1980s. Each property contains a historically significant, single-family house indicative of the early 20th century when the East End experienced an influx of summer residents. The properties contain scenic open lands, meadows, woodland and natural habitats worthy of conservation. The northerly and westerly boundaries of the property are contiguous to Dam Pond and the Ruth Oliva Preserve.

The protection of the OHS property was accomplished in several ways. First, the Trust purchased a 2.7-acre parcel from OHS now known as the Sonja Stein Preserve (*lot D on the map, below*). The funds to acquire the property were donated to the Trust by the Estate of J. Philip Anderegg, authorized by executor Arthur Tasker. In order to assure its perpetual protection, the Trust is working closely with the Town of Southold, which has expressed an interest and willingness to hold a conservation easement on this parcel. Second, the Trust (*again using funds donated by the Anderegg Estate*) acquired conservation and historic preservation easements from OHS on each of the two residential properties (*lots E, F on the map, page 5*), eliminating the

Dam Pond: *Continue to page 6*

## The Legacy of Ruth Oliva



A resident of the North Fork from the early 1970s, Ruth Oliva worked tirelessly for the community to conserve the area's natural lands and habitats. The dedication plaque at the Preserve reads: "Dedicated September 2010 in memory of Ruth Oliva (1932-2009), whose life's work was devoted to the protection and preservation of Southold Town, its open spaces and its natural resources. As president of the North Fork Environmental Council and a member of the Southold Town Council, Zoning Board, Anti-Bias Task Force, Transportation Committee and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Coordinating Council, she set an example of selfless public service that will inspire future generations." Added neighbor and friend Joseph Townsend: "Ruth was one of the earliest people to publicly work on behalf of preservation in Southold, from the early 1970s. She worked tirelessly. While she wasn't the most outspoken, she was the most consistent, and the area around Dam Pond was one she worked very hard for."

## The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation



The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation has given charitable contributions aggregating approximately \$300 million since its inception in 1984 and has earned recognition for its creativity, innovative imagination, achievement, and generosity. Beginning in 2001, the Foundation provided leadership funding to help the Peconic Land Trust establish the Peter Jay Sharp Trust Fund for the Environment (*Fund*), with \$2 million in gifts from the Foundation. The Fund is a source of capital that serves as a revolving fund. In effect, it provides interim financing with respect to the Trust's future acquisitions of land, conservation easements, or other environmental assets. To date, the Trust has used the Fund on 17 projects, the first of which was Dam Pond. Over the years, the Fund has grown to nearly \$5 million through donations by other individuals and foundations for this express purpose.

### Dam Pond: *Continued from page 5*

possibility of further subdivision and protecting the historic character and attributes of the residences. These restrictions run with the land and will be monitored and enforced by the Trust for all future owners. Sonja Stein's bequest has provided OHS with a unique opportunity to advance its mission and expand programs to further serve the entire Oysterponds community.

RuthAnn Bramson, President of OHS at the time of the conservation said: "The Society has been honored by Sonja Stein's generous gift and by the faith she placed in us to be good stewards of her beloved estate. We reached out to the Trust to advise us in crafting a conservation and preservation plan for this unique property because of

their expertise and extensive experience with preservation on the East End. With this partnership we are able to assure that this property, which is environmentally and historically important to the community of Oysterponds, will be protected in perpetuity, just as Ms. Stein wished for it to be."

### Patience, Consistency, and Creativity

Conserving Dam Pond and its environs was years in the making and would not have been possible without the Trust's many financial supporters. As partners in our conservation efforts, you underwrite the talent, expertise, and experience of our professional staff who put the pieces of a larger puzzle together in unique ways. In addition, the cooperation and collaboration of landowners, public officials, and partner organizations has been essential to our success. In particular, we must acknowledge the following: Suffolk County, Town of Southold, Oysterponds Historical Society, The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Estate of J. Philip Anderegg, Sonja Stein, Raoul & Bettina Witteveen, Joseph Gazza, Bernice and Andrew Letteri, Arthur Tasker, and many more. Together, in concert with the Peconic Land Trust, an amazing assemblage of natural habitat, ecological communities, historic properties, scenic vistas, and trails have been protected for future generations to enjoy. 🌿



Tim Caufield and RuthAnn Bramson on birding hike at Dam Pond.



Osprey Feather

## Conservation Accomplishments

# 2012 Conservation Projects: Farmland, Natural Land and Historic Preservation Highlight a Year of Growth



Beagle Club

**Swain Farmland:** Early in 2012, the Swain family of Mattituck worked with the Peconic Land Trust on a conservation initiative that involved the Town of Southold purchasing development rights on approximately 13.5 acres of the family's working farmland. At the time of the closing, the Swain family simultaneously sold the protected, underlying land to another local farming family who plan to expand their agricultural operation.

**OHS-Reybine & OHS-Ward Easements & Sonja Stein Preserve:** In February, the Oysterponds Historical Society (OHS) and the Peconic Land Trust completed a unique conservation and historic preservation collaboration on 12.5 acres in East Marion. Bequeathed to OHS by the Estate of Sonja Stein, the property was comprised of two separate parcels with historically significant houses and outbuildings recognized by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities. The collaboration resulted in the creation of several key preservation areas: the 2.7-acre *Sonja Stein Preserve* located on Dam Pond; a 1.3-acre building envelope surrounding the existing house and outbuildings on the 4.2-acre property with the remaining 2.9 acres protected from development with a conservation easement—this is now known as the *OHS-Ward Easement*; and a 1.4-acre building envelope created around the other house and outbuildings on the 5.6-acre property with the remaining 4.2 acres protected in perpetuity with a second conservation easement—this is now known as the *OHS-Reybine Easement*. All told, this incredible cooperative effort, using funds donated to the Trust by the Estate of J. Philip Anderegg, authorized by executor Arthur Tasker, for the purchase of the two easements and the preserve, adds nearly ¼ mile of protected shoreline to the existing assemblage of private and public conservation lands on and around Dam Pond. (See cover story.)



Top: Swain Farmland  
Bottom: OHS-Ward Easement

**Sylvester Manor Farmland:** In August, Sylvester Manor Educational Farm and the Trust announced the conservation of over 26 acres of farmland through a sale of development rights to Suffolk County and the Town of Shelter Island, an agricultural protection effort long in the making. A federal grant through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) was used by the County to partially fund the purchase. The Trust assisted in the protection of this farmland, located along the northern boundary of the 243-acre Sylvester Manor and Manhasset Road, through negotiations with FRPP. The Sylvester Manor Educational Farm will use the proceeds from the development rights sale to establish a restricted fund to assure the long-term stewardship of Sylvester Manor by the Farm. Efforts are currently underway to protect additional agricultural land at the Manor.

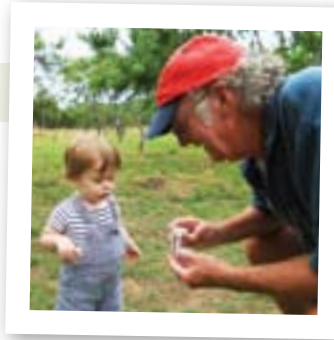
**Beagle Club:** Also in August, the Trust assisted Suffolk County in the conservation of a 150-acre parcel of open space on Edwards Avenue in Riverhead, known as the "Beagle Club." The Beagle Club property, historically used to train beagles and hold dog competitions, has long been an open space priority. Surrounded on three sides by preserved land, the conservation of this grassland habitat completes a block of over 600 acres, serving as a buffer between actively cultivated agricultural land and large scale residential development. It is situated in a Special Groundwater Protection Area, has great potential for passive outdoor recreation opportunities for residents, and is home to a widely diverse population of birds and other wildlife. The protection of the Beagle Club was made possible by the County's purchase of the land from the Club, facilitated by the Trust over the course of many months. 🌿

## Quail Hill Farm

# The Year of the Garlic, or Sweet Potato

By Scott Chaskey

When we brought in the garlic harvest in early July at Quail Hill Farm I was ready to name this year the “Year of *Sativum Ophioscorodon*,” after the hardneck varieties that we grow. After all, 45,000 bulbs of garlic, if you can find the space to cure them, is certainly a fine, abundant harvest. Our plan was to produce enough garlic so that we could treat our CSA members to our favorite allium throughout the long season and still be in possession of 800 pounds of seed garlic for the fall planting. Success! The process of separating bulbs into cloves (45,000, more or less) followed, and the planting has continued since Halloween.



I am tempted now to rename the year—the sweet potatoes, with a little help, are pouring out of the silt loam of our Town Lane field. It is hard to believe that the delicate “slips” we planted out in early June could send out vines reaching to fifteen feet, and produce tubers the size of a small football. Our mechanical potato digger refuses to handle this kind of tuber with sufficient delicacy, so we are unearthing the crop by hand—some to be placed at our farmstand, and thousands of pounds to be “cured” in our greenhouse for winter storage.



To the north of Town Lane we have recently turned up some new ground to be leased to aspiring beginning farmers, part of our Farms for the Future Initiative. This land has been fallow for several years (grazed by whitetail deer), and is adjacent to fields we have recently leased to other young farmers from Amber Waves, Sunset Beach, and Balsam Farms. A generous foundation grant made it possible for us to construct a deer fence this Spring around the fifty acre field; now, in fall, this field is flush with autumn squash, pumpkins, greens, and a crop of winter wheat soon to germinate. A cover crop of rye and Austrian winter peas will enrich the fields after harvest, to prepare the soil for Spring planting.

We have yet to complete the harvest of crops destined for our root cellar (to nourish our Winter Share members), for carrots and turnips and beets will sweeten in the colder nights. Then perhaps we will rename the year again, to suit the season, as we repeat the poet William Blake’s refrain: “...in Winter enjoy.” 🌱



*“In seedtime learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.”*



## Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm

# Family Friendly Programs at the Ag Center Highlight a Year of Growth

For the farming community who cultivate the land at the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm, including Chris and Holly Browder of *Browder’s Birds*, Stephanie Gaylor of *Invincible Summer Farms*, and Fred Lee of *Sang Lee Farm*, the dry weather coupled with strategic organic spraying held off the dreaded late blight found in other parts of Long Island, and resulted in a delicious harvest of vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, and poultry along with many other items grown at the farm by the families engaged in our Community Garden.

The Ag Center was a hub of activity in 2012, as we continued to expand our connection with local families, schools, and non-profits, at this 23.4-acre farm, owned and managed by the Trust since 2008, overseen by North Fork Stewardship Managers Denise Markut and Dan Heston.

Now in our third year offering plots to local families, space in the Community Garden was at a premium, and the plots were fully subscribed. Returning and new families all had the chance to learn from each other, share the workload, and swap seeds, seedlings and stories. Given the various educational programs offered to our gardeners and the community at large on such topics as composting, small space gardening, starting seed indoors, and controlling disease such as blight, along with the benefit of irrigation and great compost, the crops were tremendous and bountiful.



Many volunteers made an impact at the Ag Center. Our hard working team of Honey Dews and Dirt Devils came to the farm every Friday to work through a never-ending to-do list. The children from Maureen Radigan’s “The Child’s Garden Preschool,” the day residents of East End Disabilities Group, and seniors from the community all dedicated hours in our inter-generational garden. We are excited once again to host the 4th grade students of the Southold Elementary School for educational programs centered on the Native American “Three Sisters Garden” theme, and learned how the three sisters—beans, corn and squash—work together to “feed the land, and feed the first peoples.” The students planted seeds, this year it was squash and gourds, and returned as 5th graders to harvest in October. The summer also saw the return of the Avalon Group, who built wooden tops for the cesspool and dry well, a much needed and appreciated addition to the safe operations of the farm! Kudos must also go to Trust intern, Eliza Chappell, who spent the summer in the house at the farm, and worked daily to assist the gardeners and staff alike. Another highlight of the year was the entertainment and gentle education of a spirited group of children and parents, who enjoyed the remarkable and award-winning musical talent of Connie Gillies and Alice Wiles of “Constant Wonder” (pictured above).

Finally, the Trust was very fortunate to receive donations from Anne and Tom Hubbard for programming as well as much-needed renovations in several of the interior rooms of the farmhouse at the Ag Center. The renovations included upgrading the electrical system, refurbishing trims, re-plastering, and painting in several rooms on the second floor. We made sure that all improvements fit within the historic character and will support the future uses of the farmhouse.

We close the year at the Ag Center sure in the knowledge that new connections were forged between the farmers, community gardeners and visitors alike, and skills were developed that will help feed families fresh, locally grown produce, all the while encouraging a deeper connection to the land around us. 🌱



Ag Center Intern Eliza Chappell with Honey Dew AnnMarie Lyons

# Transition Defines 2012 at the Gardens

Over the winter of 2011/2012, the Peconic Land Trust convened a Visioning Committee to work with Garden Manager Rick Bogusch on a transitional plan for this unique public garden in the heart of Bridgehampton. For over 20 years, Bridge Gardens has existed behind the *white gate* and has been referred to as a *"hidden gem"* in the community.

Over the past three seasons, the Trust has worked to *open* the gates and bring more of the community in...as well as to find the right balance for Bridge Gardens within the overall mission of the Trust: to conserve Long Island's working farms, natural lands and heritage.

The Committee, led by marketing executive Ed Krug (*who joined the Peconic Land Trust's Board of Directors this Fall, see page 2*), included landscape architect/designer Deborah Nevins, designer Charlotte Triefus, curator Susan Kennedy Zeller, and long-time Trust Board members, and gardening experts, Jane Iselin, John Norbeck (*who is also the President and CEO of Old Westbury Gardens*), and master gardener Nancy Gilbert. The committee came away with the following direction for Bridge Gardens: to support the mission of the Trust by serving as a multi-purpose, multi-disciplinary outdoor classroom, demonstration garden and community resource.

Over the course of 2012, Rick, his staff, and volunteers have been incorporating this new purpose throughout the grounds and programming, evolving the Gardens into a model for responsible landscape management, a showcase for sustainable garden and living practices,



and a bridge between the Trust and the public to learn about conservation in our community. Here are some ways the Gardens were shaped by this vision:

**Accessibility:** In the Spring, the Trust expanded the parking area inside the garden to accommodate up to 25 cars and to provide easy drop off and pick up for larger groups. The new parking lot is designed to look just like a lawn, and allows storm water recharge!

**Garden to Table:** The vegetable garden, which was planted initially during the 2011 season, doubled in size this year, with both raised beds and vertical trellises. The produce grown in the gardens was incorporated into a variety of programs during the season, including Silvia Lehrer's cooking demonstration in August, food-oriented activities for children throughout the summer, and as staples for our garden-to-table fundraising event "Brunch: A Culinary Tour of Bridge Gardens." This year, we produced over 30 varieties of vegetables, with some of the excess being donated to the Sag Harbor Food Pantry.

**Sustainable Living Practices:** In the late winter and early spring, Bridge Gardens hosted a variety of design and living experts for an engaging series on Sustainability: Inside and Out. The focus of that series carried through the spring, summer and fall, including our most recent program on sustainable turf management—a practice that we have instituted at the garden over the past two years. We've also been harvesting the bamboo at the southeastern corner of the gardens and using the materials creatively throughout, including the vegetable garden trellising and some new "furniture" built by volunteer Sam Masters in the bamboo room (*come and check out the bamboo couch the next time you visit*).

**Arts & Culture:** The gardens have continued to incorporate all forms of artistic expression and cultural exploration, including the return of Uncommon Ground, a sculpture exhibition featuring the works of local and internationally recognized artists that were chosen based on their ability to blend with the natural environment of the gardens. Additionally, the musicians performing during Fridays at Six enhanced the gardens overall atmosphere on late summer evenings. The inclusion of Bridge Gardens on the Bridgehampton Historical Society's Barn Tour in June provided a wonderful link to the farming heritage of gardens—the house today sits on the footprint of the original potato barn that supported the Bishop family's



# Legacy Gifts Provide Sustenance for the Future

In 2012, the Trust was fortunate to receive two bequests from long-time supporters of the Peconic Land Trust, who you have learned about in the pages of this newsletter—Glena Jagger (*page 3*) and Sonja Stein (*cover story*). In addition to their significant contributions to conservation, both Glenna and Sonja made significant monetary gifts to the Trust in their wills. Their dedication to the protection of Long Island's heritage has been memorialized by the fresh fruits and vegetables provided by Hank's Farmstand and through the forever wild lands and historic structures in the environs of Dam Pond.

Making a gift to the Peconic Land Trust through a bequest in a will and/or a revocable living trust allows you to decide how your estate will be distributed. A charitable donation through a bequest also enables you to take advantage of tax-saving opportunities that preserve as much of your estate as possible by lowering estate taxes that must be paid by your heirs. There are several types of bequests, and we urge you to discuss them with an attorney or financial advisor before any decisions are made. If we can be of any assistance, please call Rebecca A. Chapman, Vice President of Philanthropy at 631.283.3195 or RChapman@PeconicLandTrust.org.



## Granttham/Reeve Dedication

In early November, the Trust gathered with Avis and Rick Reeve, and family and friends, for the dedication of two plaques: one in memory of O. Earl Granttham & Caryl Reeve Granttham by Caryl's former house (*now owned by the Trust*) on Sound Avenue in Riverhead, and the second at the entrance to the Granttham/Reeve Preserve—dedicated to the Reeve Family Farm and in honor of O. Earl Granttham & Caryl Reeve Granttham and Richard Norman & Avis Tuthill Reeve. It was a beautiful afternoon with friends celebrating the generosity of the Granttham/Reeve family. (*For more on their story, see the Trust's Fall 2010 newsletter cover story*).

## Bridge Gardens: Continued from page 10

potato farm beginning in the 1920s. (*A history of the property can be found on the Trust's website*).

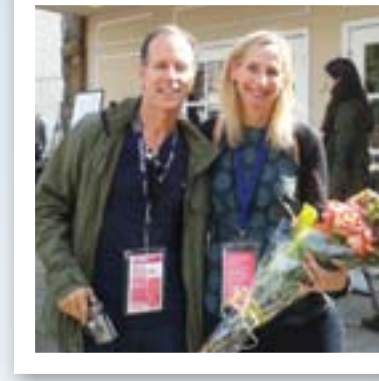
In addition to the work of the Visioning Committee, and the on-going support of the Bridge Gardens membership and volunteers, the Trust has received boosts from our local business community, including Heirloom Gardens, Mahoney Tree Farm, Marders, and Macy's—providing us with everything from tree removal, planting, lawn care and clean-ups.

Bridge Gardens has welcomed thousands of visitors in the past few years, and we look forward to welcoming more of the community in the years to come. Our focus on sustainable living practices will continue, and we look forward to integrating this purpose throughout the current buildings, structures and landscapes.



## Growing Farmers

Vice Chair Hilary Leff spearheaded a project to showcase the work of the Trust with young and new farmers on Long Island. **Growing Farmers**, which Hilary co-produced with Director Michael Halsband in conjunction with the Trust, premiered at the 2012 Hamptons International Film Festival and walked away with the Audience Choice Award for Short Film. The film, with a companion Roundtable discussion, found an enthusiastic audience, and showcased the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative and its Incubator project. Today, the Trust is leasing land to 18 growers—both those new to the business, as well as established farmers—on over 240 acres on both the North and the South Forks. The majority of the land available for leasing through the Farms for the Future Initiative is located at Quail Hill Farm/Deborah Light Preserve and the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm. If you would like to screen **Growing Farmers**, or know a school group or other organization that would like to show the film to their community, contact the Trust's Director of Marketing & Communications, Yvette DeBow-Salsedo.



# PECONIC LAND TRUST



296 Hampton Road | PO Box 1776  
Southampton, New York 11969

(631) 283-3195

[www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org)

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

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