



CONSERVING FARMLAND FOR FARMING A HUGE STEP FORWARD

*Thanks to Your Support,
33 Acres Are Protected for Food, Forever
Danilevsky Farmland, Water Mill, NY*

On the South Fork, we have been witnessing the unraveling of 40 years of public and private efforts to protect farmland for farming. Because protected farmland is increasingly being purchased by non-farmers for as much as \$200,000/acre, most farmers cannot compete. But with the willingness of the Town of Southampton to purchase additional restrictions on farmland, there is a real possibility that a significant amount of protected farmland will be accessible and affordable to farmers, especially those who produce food, for generations to come.

On July 10, 2014, the Estate of Charlotte Danilevsky sold 33 acres of farmland to the Peconic Land Trust. At the closing, the Town of Southampton purchased enhanced restrictions from the Trust modeled after those that we hold on about 60 acres of farmland in Sagaponack, NY (*see related article, page 4*).

"This is a very big deal, one that bodes well for the future of farming in Southampton Town. In partnership with the Town, we have identified a way to assure that protected farmland is farmed. This would not have been possible without the Town's participation," noted John v.H. Halsey, the Trust's President.

Similar to what the Trust has done in recent years, the Town's enhanced restrictions preclude equestrian use, nursery operations, and vineyards. In addition, the Town retains the right to lease the farmland to a farmer if it is out of production for two years. The Town's restrictions also require that 80 percent of the farmland be used for food production and that future sales of the property be restricted to qualified farmers. These restrictions are intended to prevent the purchase of protected farmland by non-farmers who are more interested in its use as open space rather than the business of farming.

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President's Letter: John v.H. Halsey

Reflections

Because of you—Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage have a fighting chance to sustain our communities now and in the future. You are

indeed our partners in protecting resources that are essential to **Food, Water, and People** for generations to come. Our transformational work grapples with old and new challenges that constantly require the innovative problem-solving that the Trust is known and recognized for—you make it possible!

By conserving working farms, together we assure the future of agriculture on Long Island in all of its diversity including the farming of fresh, local food. The 33 acres of Water Mill farmland recently purchased in partnership with Southampton Town will be sold to farmers in the coming months! The Town Board broke new ground by purchasing additional restrictions to guarantee that this farmland will be accessible and affordable to farmers now and in the future. But we cannot stop here—more farmland must be protected for farming by acquiring additional restrictions on more parcels so that there is somewhere for new and established farmers alike to grow. Through our Farms for the Future Initiative, we are helping new farmers get their feet on the ground with the help of you and other supporters.

Conservation Philanthropy

Barbara J. Slifka Honored at Through Farms and Fields

On Sunday, August 3, 2014 we were thrilled to recognize Barbara Slifka at Through Farms and Fields, our annual supper. A member of the Peconic Land Trust's Trustees Council since 2007, Barbara has been an invaluable partner in our efforts to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands.

A fashion editor with *Harper's Bazaar* for 40 years, Barbara brings her impeccable style, flair and work ethic in support of the organizations that mean the most to her. We are fortunate to be among the dozens of local, national and international organizations that have earned her trust. We have truly benefitted from Barbara's conservation philanthropy in many ways. She was a leading advocate for the protection of the Hopping/Pike Farmstand project in Sagaponack in 2010/2011—she provided a substantial challenge grant that made it all possible. In addition to her support of our Annual Fund, Barbara has contributed to Quail Hill Farm, Bridge Gardens, and our Revolving Fund (aka The Peter Jay Sharp Fund for the Environment). **Thank you so much, Barbara!**

"Over the past decade, Barbara has made a tremendous difference in our work and continuously looks for opportunities to leverage her philanthropy so that it can have the greatest possible impact," said President John v.H. Halsey. "The breadth of her giving is a testament to her broad interests as well as her love for people and the communities in which they live." 🌿

By preserving natural lands, together we assure the integrity of clean drinking water as well as coastal waters and estuaries so important to our health and local economy. The acquisition, restoration, and stewardship of our wooded watersheds and fragile shorelines have been key aspects of our work for over 30 years. Shellfisher Preserve replenishes our bays with oysters, clams, and scallops. Hundreds of acres above our aquifer have been protected. Reel Point on Shelter Island is being restored as is a maritime habitat on a former industrial site in Greenport. How to live sustainably is a new hallmark of our Bridge Gardens as we work with partner organizations to promote sustainable lawns and gardens.

By protecting our heritage, together we foster a deep appreciation of the productive farms, incredible resources, and the history that define Long Island. Through our *Connections* programs—supported by you—we offer over 40 workshops, farm visits, nature explorations, tastings, and lectures all year long that connect people to land. In addition, the Ag Center at Charnews Farm has partnered with the Southold School District to involve children in planting and harvesting their own vegetables as they learn about life on a farm, proper nutrition, and our rich local history.

Both land and people are integral to conservation. As we honor Barbara Slifka as well as Anne and Tom Hubbard for their passion for conservation in 2014, we also honor and thank you for your support as our partners in conservation.



John v.H. Halsey, Barbara Slifka,
Robert Wilson, and Rebecca Chapman

photo credit: Phill Lehans

Ninth Generation Farmland Protected for Future Farmers

In the summer of 2013, the Peconic Land Trust worked with the descendants of William Haines and acquired 20 acres of protected farmland along Route 27 at the gateway to the hamlet of Bridgehampton. The farmland has been in the family since the 1600s, when Mr. Haines acquired the land as a consequence of the Little South Division of 1682. The family's interest in seeing the land acquired by the Trust for food production farming was a factor in its acquisition. The South Fork Land Foundation, an anonymous conservation lender, and funds from the Trust's Revolving Fund established by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation made this purchase possible.

Had the Trust not acquired the farmland, it could have been purchased by non-farmers and taken out of food production—an ever-increasing trend on the South Fork. These non-farmer purchases are driving up the value of protected farmland in Southampton Town to prices in excess of \$100,000 an acre. This is a price not affordable for farmers and one that is having a negative impact on farm families interested in passing land to the next generation.

"We are pleased that our land went to an organization that will treasure it and preserve it for agriculture," said Darrah Yates, a descendent of Mr. Haines. "The Trust's dedication and passion for preserving the East End is very obvious. There are many, I am sure, who appreciate all that you do. My family is one of them."

Farming Culture

In continuous farming since the late 1600s, 90 percent of the property consists of the best agricultural soils on Long Island, Bridgehampton Silt Loam. Over the nine generations that the family owned the property, it has been cultivated for food, first supporting the early generations of settlers, and later in production agriculture, producing potatoes, corn and other vegetables.

But the land may well have been in production by Native Americans for centuries prior to English settlement. According to David Martine, Director of the Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum, "Native Americans often raised crops, including the Three Sisters (corn, squash and beans) near their settlements. This property contains very fertile soils close to a documented Native American settlement in Mecox and is



John v.H. Halsey, Darrah Yates, Clifford Foster

adjacent to Kellis Pond, a source of fresh water, so the likelihood is quite high that it was producing food long before Europeans arrived."

Since the Trust acquired the property, it has been leased by Peter Dankowski for corn and potatoes. "It's all about these incredible soils," said Lee Foster, Treasurer of the South Fork Land Foundation, a supporting organization of the Peconic Land Trust. "Once protected, we have a responsibility to care, nurture, and use these soils for their best purpose. It is our goal to make the land available to farmers who grow food and to respect the legacy that the soil represents as well as its special capacity to produce crops of benefit to all." 🌱





photo credit: Phill Lehans

“The unique terms of this easement represent an important acknowledgment by the Town for the need to continue adjusting the use of the Community Preservation Fund to ensure the goals and the integrity of the program can be sustained and protected over time,” said Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst.

Indeed, the Danilevsky transaction represents the first time that a municipality in New York State has

incorporated enhanced restrictions in a purchase of development rights, a milestone for Southampton Town and farmland protection efforts.

The Town’s participation began on May 27, 2014, when all five Southampton Town Board members voted in favor of the acquisition at a public hearing, where many members of the community spoke out in support of the conservation effort.

“I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart,” said Water Mill resident Diana Rulnick at the hearing. “I marvel every day at the magnificent farmland that is already preserved in that area and to walk past these lands and know they are going to be protected just makes me so proud to be a part of our community.”

On August 5, the Trust and Southampton Town hosted a joint press conference on the farmland. Joining the Trust’s President John v.H. Halsey was Southampton Town Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst and Town Board members Bridget Fleming, Stan Glinka and Brad Bender (*Christine Scalera was unable to attend*). The Trust and the Town were joined by State Senator Ken LaValle and Assemblyman Fred Thiele—both instrumental in the crafting of the Community Preservation Fund legislation and supportive of farmland protection—as well as Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and County Legislator Jay Schneiderman. Farmers John L. Halsey, Adam Halsey,

Conservation Philanthropy Galban Family Protects Farmland for Farming in Sagaponack

In December 2013, Beverley “Muffie” Galban, with the support and encouragement of her family, donated an overlay easement with enhanced restrictions to the Trust on a 33.4-acre agricultural reserve in Sagaponack. This land was protected from further development as a function of a clustered subdivision in the 1990s at which time an agricultural easement was conveyed to the Town of Southampton.

Mrs. Galban’s recent gift represents the second time the Trust has received a donation of Affirmative & Affordable Farming Covenants and Resale Restriction from a farmland owner.* These added restrictions are intended to discourage the purchase of protected farmland by non-farmers in the future by requiring that it be in active production, and also gives the Trust the option to lease the land to a farmer should the land lay fallow for two or more years. It also prevents any future owner from hedging in the property, thereby insuring that the scenic vista will be open to the public forever!

“The agricultural nature of the area has always been key to what made it special. If we don’t take steps to protect that, pretty soon the place will be reduced to a crowd of mansions and privet hedges. This is our way to



help protect the qualities that first brought our family here over 50 years ago,” said son Anthony Galban.

“The Galban family has a strong connection to the East End’s agricultural heritage and has done extraordinary work to see that this resource is conserved as active farmland for future generations. Their voluntary donation of additional restrictions on their land is a testament to their commitment to the community and to fresh, local food, and will hopefully serve as a model for other landowners to consider,” said John v.H. Halsey, the Trust’s President. 🌿

**In 2011, Jeff White donated Affirmative & Affordable Farming Covenants and Resale Restrictions on 20 acres of farmland in Sagaponack. The Trust applied similar restrictions on the Hopping farmland when sold to Jim and Jennifer Pike also in 2011. Featured in the Fall 2011 newsletter.*

Danilevsky Farm: *Continued from page 4*

Tom Halsey, Hank Kraszewski, John & Julie Wesnofske, and Bill White voiced their support for efforts to ensure that farmland is accessible to farmers.

“Over the past 40 years we have been extremely successful in preserving farmland on the East End. It is now time to focus on preserving farming. With the land now protected, we need to ensure that the land does not lay fallow. We must encourage active farming, contributing to our local economy and preserving part of our culture and history on the East End,” said Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr.



photo credit: Phill Lehans

At the press conference, the Trust issued a Request for Proposals to qualified farmers for the purchase of the newly protected farmland which consists of two parcels. The Trust hopes to identify the qualified farmers soon and to sell to the selected farmers by the end of 2014.

Regarding this successful purchase, we also want to acknowledge the important roles played by Tim Davis of The Corcoran Group (who cut his commission in half for the Trust as the buyer of the property) and John Bennett, Esquire, who represented the Estate of Charlotte Danilevsky.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of farming and farmland protection—in 2013 and 2014, together we protected hundreds more acres of the rich agricultural soils found on both the North and South Forks, as well as Shelter Island, and we look forward to our ongoing partnership with you, our friends and neighbors, to conserve Long Island’s rural heritage for future generations. 🌿

Conservation Philanthropy

Louis Bacon Honored by The Land Trust Alliance

In September 2014, conservation philanthropist Louis Bacon, founder of The Moore Charitable Foundation and The Robins Island Foundation, received the Land Trust Alliance President’s Award at its annual conference in Providence, RI. The award celebrates *an individual whose leadership has enriched the land conservation movement and whose contributions encourage commitment and action through the land trust community and private landowner community*, and is only awarded on a special, selective basis.

Mr. Bacon is a dedicated conservationist, having permanently protected over 210,000 acres of land in perpetuity across the country. Upon receiving the President’s Award, he challenged his peers to permanently protect 50 percent of their landholdings.

The Peconic Land Trust has been honored to work with Mr. Bacon on projects here on Long Island, most notably the 540-acre Cow Neck conservation easement in Southampton. The property, purchased from the Salm family in the 1990s, is the Trust’s largest conservation easement gift. Cow Neck includes undisturbed tidal and freshwater wetlands, woodlands, agricultural and equestrian lands, and meadows.

The Trust recognized Mr. Bacon’s conservation philanthropy at our annual Through Farms and Fields in 2013. Held at the home of the Salm family, the Port of Missing Men, the country luncheon honored the memory of Peter Salm and the conservation legacy of the Salm family, along with the Louis Bacon family.

“I have known Louis for more than 20 years. His contributions to the protection of Long Island’s natural land and heritage are truly significant,” said Trust President John v.H. Halsey. “The protection of Cow Neck plus land across Long Island and beyond has been extraordinary and, no doubt, will inspire others to consider conservation as a means to leave a legacy for future generations.”

Most recently, in July 2013, the Trust accepted the conveyance of a conservation easement on a portion of the historic New Suffolk waterfront in Southold from Mr. Bacon’s Robins Island Holdings, LLC. The purchase and protection of this property by Mr. Bacon was a collaborative effort between Robins Island Holdings, the Trust and the New Suffolk Waterfront Fund. 🌿



photo credit: Richard Lewin

100 Acres of Land Provides a Home for Food Farmers

The Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm is a true community conservation success! From 23 acres acquired by the Trust in 2008 through a successful community fundraising initiative that many of you supported, and with Southold Town's purchase of development rights, the Ag Center today is nearing 100 acres of agricultural cultivation producing a diverse mix of food crops.

The Ag Center is the North Fork hub for the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative. Farming, gardening, and other activities are taking place on almost 100 acres of farmland, woods and meadows. Much of the acreage is leased to both established and new farmers as well as members of our Community Garden, which includes 50 garden plots on approximately 1.5 acres. There is also a Learning Garden that hosts students from Southold Elementary School in the spring and fall. Current farmland leaseholders at the Ag Center include Sang Lee Farms, Invincible Summer Farms, KLM Mushrooms and Akio Soji.

The Ag Center also provided the launching pad for Chris and Holly Browder of Browder's Birds. Browder's Birds fledged its pastured poultry operations at the Ag Center in 2010, an early participant in the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative. As of 2014, the Browder's have established their own farmstead on farmland purchased from the Trust.

"Purchasing our own farm in Mattituck is a dream come true. We intend to use this land to continue to grow our certified organic pastured egg and poultry farming operation. In addition, we hope to diversify into other small livestock, small scale vegetable production and certain perennial crops," said Chris Browder.

"The Browders are a wonderful example of how the Farms for the Future Initiative was designed to work—to help start-up farm operations establish themselves, and then assist them in finding farmland that is suitable for their needs going forward. This has been an incredible win-win for the Browders, the Trust, and the East End. We look forward to continuing to assist them as needed," said Dan Heston, the Trust's North Fork Stewardship Manager.



It Takes Many Hands

Nearly 100 individuals and foundations have assisted the Trust in the creation and growth of the Ag Center. Anne and Thomas J. Hubbard were the catalysts behind this effort by providing leadership in the community fundraising campaign with a challenge gift to be matched. They have since gifted additional land that is now part of the Ag Center or was leveraged to assist in its growth.

The Trust honored Anne and Tom at this year's Peconic, held at the AgCenter, for their immense contributions to the community and the Trust as well as their incredible dedication to the success of the Ag Center.

Expansion Through Exchange

The most recent addition to the Ag Center is a 19.2-acre farm on the northeast corner of County Road 48 and Young's Avenue, acquired in a Like-Kind Exchange with Mary and Al Krupski in the Spring of 2014. The property, which includes five structures, was for many years owned by the Dickerson Family, a long-standing farm family on the North Fork who sold the development rights on the property to the Town of Southold in 1992. As part of the like-kind exchange, the Trust conveyed 16.8 acres of farmland on Route 48 in Peconic to the Krupski's, land which the Trust received as a donation in November 2013 from Thomas Hubbard.

"We are pleased to be able to work with the Peconic Land Trust on this farmland exchange, which will strengthen both of our farm operations. Historically, like-kind exchanges among farm operations have always taken place and provide the community with stronger and sustainable farms. The work the Trust is accomplishing at its Ag Center, by providing existing and new farmers with access to contiguous farmland, is important and we are proud to have played a small part in growing that effort," said Al Krupski.



In addition to the original Charnews Farm acquisition in 2008 and the recent acquisition of the Krupski property, farmland added to the Trust's Ag Center operation includes:

- **Cleo's Corner:** 5.7 acres donated by the Hubbards in 2007, located on the southwest corner of Route 48 and Horton's Lane.
- **Dickerson East and West:** Part of the original Dickerson Farm, 34 acres to the west of the Krupski transaction. Acquired in 2013, a portion of the funding was provided by the Hubbards, the 1772 Foundation, and the Town of Southold through its purchase of development rights.
- **Dart Farm:** 3.6 acres donated by the Hubbards in 2013; adjacent to Dickerson East and West on the northwest corner of Route 48 and Young's Avenue.
- **Hubbard East:** Seven acres of woods and meadow off Route 48 to the east of Krupski donated by Anne Hubbard.
- Another six adjacent acres, which include farmland, meadows and woodlands as well as a 1-acre commercial lot with a building along Route 48.



In June 2013, a 7.8-acre parcel donated by Anne Hubbard to the Trust in 2008 was sold to Sparkling Pointe Winery. Anne Hubbard had purchased the once commercial property and demolished the commercial structure on it, donating an easement on the property to the Town of Southold prior to gifting the property to the Trust. The Trust in turn placed additional restrictions on the land to ensure its scenic agricultural value prior to the sale to Sparkling Pointe, the funding from which was applied toward the Ag Center's growth.

Three charitable foundations, **Avalon Park and Preserve**, the **Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation**, and the **1772 Foundation** have also provided tremendous support toward the Ag Center's evolution. Both Avalon and Goldman have provided funding for operations at the Ag Center, including fencing and irrigation, apprentice and educational programs. The 1772 Foundation provided acquisition funding for both the Krupski farmland exchange as well as the Dickerson East and West properties. The balance of funding has come from people like you, our partners in conservation. 🌿

Conservation Philanthropy

Anne & Thomas J. Hubbard

Rarely does one meet a couple who has quietly done more to help conserve the working farmland and open spaces of Long Island than Anne and Tom Hubbard. With amazing patience, unwavering determination and passion, they have worked with the Peconic Land Trust to conserve the rural landscapes of Long Island in many ways:

- As sponsors of the Trust's Annual Fund for over a decade, Anne and Tom support the very foundation of the organization and conservation initiatives throughout Long Island.
- As conservationists, the Hubbards have identified important farmlands, woodlands and wetlands threatened with development and either personally acquired those lands or donated funds for their conservation. *They even acquired properties with structures only to tear them down and restore the land for farming and open space.*
- As visionaries, Anne and Tom have been the bedrock of the Trust's efforts to build an amazing assemblage of working farmland to support new and existing farmers at our Ag Center at Charnews Farm in Southold. Not only have they contributed critical farmland parcels specifically to this effort, but just as importantly, they were the lead donors.

Because of their generosity and leadership, over 100 individuals and foundations joined the Hubbards in supporting the fundraising campaign to acquire the Ag Center and, most recently, to increase it with over 50 additional acres of fertile soil!



Al and Mary Krupski, Tim Caufield, Anne and Tom Hubbard and John v.H. Halsey

Anne and Tom Hubbard have made an indelible mark on the community, particularly the Route 48 corridor between Horton Lane and Youngs Avenue in Southold. **We cannot thank them enough for their vision and support!**

"This beautiful farmland—it doesn't take long to realize that there isn't going to be much of it left unless we do something about it," said Anne Hubbard in the April 24, 2014 article entitled 'A Place to Grow Farmers' in *The Suffolk Times*. "I think to encourage younger farmers to take on this way of life and preserve the land is so very important."

"The Hubbards have left Southold an invaluable legacy," said Joseph Townsend, a member of the Trust's Board of Directors. "Not only have they guaranteed the preservation of over 100 acres of prime farmland, they have also assured its continued availability to our local farmers. Their generosity will help keep farming viable here into the foreseeable future." 🌿

photo credit: Phill Lehans

Natural Lands and Farmland Conservation

Partnership with USDA, NYS DEC and Stony Brook Creates Nature Preserve Along the Forge River in Mastic Beach

Conserving vulnerable properties along the Forge River has long been a priority for both the residents of Mastic Beach and the Town of Brookhaven in order to improve the quality of the river, especially in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

In early September 2014, with encouragement from local residents, the Town of Brookhaven, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Peconic Land Trust purchased a 4+ acre parcel on the peninsula of the Forge River from the Stony Brook Foundation. The property includes a single-family house, detached garage, and boathouse. The purchase represents the first step toward our goal of removing the structures from the property and restoring it to its natural state. The property was originally donated to Stony Brook by Jack Macrae and Paula Cooper in 2009.



A special thank you to the Trust's Co-chair Thomas B. Williams, who reached out to the Stony Brook Foundation and began the conversation that led to the Trust's acquisition of the property. Tom, a resident of Brookhaven, learned that the Foundation was in the process of selling the property, and together with Trust staff and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, put together a plan for the Trust to acquire the property—which included applying for a USDA grant for acquisition and restoration. In the meantime, we used our Revolving Fund for the acquisition.

In October 2014, the Trust received confirmation from the USDA of its two-part grant: 1) the purchase of an easement from the Trust that extinguishes the development rights and protects the property in perpetuity, and 2) the restoration of the property to its natural state. "The property will forever be a nature preserve," explains Project Manager Kim Quarty. "The Trust will be working in partnership with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service on a restoration plan that will include the removal of the structures that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy. Their removal will reduce pollution by one less septic system and improve the resiliency of the Forge River as the restored wetlands will act like natural sponges in storm surges." To learn more about this project and get involved, contact Project Manager Kim Quarty at 631.283.3195 or KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Preserves in Greenport & Cold Spring Harbor Revitalize Surplus Properties from ExxonMobil

In December 2012, the Peconic Land Trust was very pleased to conclude a two-part conservation project with ExxonMobil Corporation:

- In Western Suffolk County in the Town of Cold Spring Harbor, an 8-acre site on Shore Road was donated to the North Shore Land Alliance with a conservation easement granted to the Peconic Land Trust.
- To the east in the Village of Greenport, a 2.1 acre site on Shelter Island Sound, now called Widow's Hole Preserve, was given to the Trust with an easement donated to Southold Town.



of surplus property for conservation purposes on Long Island.

At the Greenport site, Widow's Hole Preserve, we are now moving forward to implement a management plan that will include native habitat restoration, in partnership with the community, the Town, the Village, Cornell Cooperative Extension and ExxonMobil. The plan includes the removal of non-native and invasive plants, and replanting with a specified "palette" of species in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension. This will reduce habitat fragmentation, provide foraging and breeding areas for wildlife, and protect water quality by reducing erosion and improve filtering of potential contaminants before they reach the waterway.

The preservation of these two sites by ExxonMobil represents the corporation's first significant donations

Interested in learning more? Contact North Fork Stewardship Manager Denise Markut at 631.734.5630 or DMarkut@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Seymour Family Preserves More Land on Shelter Island

Samuel W. Seymour and Karen Patton Seymour donated a conservation easement on an additional two acres of natural lands on West Neck Road in Shelter Island to the Peconic Land Trust in December 2013. The land, purchased in June 2013 by the Seymours, was acquired with the intent of expanding the acreage protected by a previous conservation easement donated by them to the Trust in 2007. This increases the area protected to 18.6 acres!



“Sam and Karen continue to show their appreciation for the natural beauty of Shelter Island through the permanent protection of this meadow,” said John v.H. Halsey, President of the Trust. “We thank them for their commitment to conservation and look forward to working with the Seymours and their family for many years to come. We hope this latest gift inspires others to conserve the land around them.”

“We are pleased to partner with the Peconic Land Trust in preserving this land in its natural state in perpetuity,” said Karen Patton Seymour. “There is no greater gift.”

The property on West Neck Road offers many conservation values in addition to its scenic value, including its function as wildlife habitat and a migratory bird sanctuary as well as the protection of the sole-source aquifer and the integrity of the watershed and nearby surface waters.

Sylvester Manor Educational Farm Receives Gift from Eben Fiske Ostby

In June 2014, Eben Fiske Ostby donated the Manor House and 141 acres of historic Sylvester Manor to the non-profit Sylvester Manor Educational Farm. The Peconic Land Trust is pleased to have been able to assist Mr. Ostby and the Farm in this successful transition. The Trust has worked with Mr. Ostby and his nephew, Bennett Konesni, founder of the Farm, on a conservation plan for the Manor since 2008. This latest gift to the Sylvester Manor Educational Farm follows Mr. Ostby’s 2012 donation of 83 acres of historic fields and pastures, which are preserved forever as farmland through the purchase of development rights by town, county and federal conservation programs, as

well as Mr. Ostby’s donation of a 22-acre conservation easement to the Trust in 2009.

In its announcement, the Sylvester Manor Educational Farm stated: “Many professional advisers helped the organization and family realize this gift. We are grateful to the Peconic Land Trust for their key role in past preservation efforts and recent role in shepherding the property transfer process.”

Mr. Ostby said: “My thanks to the many people at the Sylvester Manor Educational Farm and the Peconic Land Trust and to the people of Shelter Island who have worked to carry Sylvester Manor into a new era. My family is proud to make the Manor a public resource with the founding of the Educational Farm and with this gift to the organization.”

McCall Wines Expands Operations

In May 2013, Russ McCall of McCall Wines purchased 42.2-acres of protected farmland, including vines, located on Route 25 in Cutchogue from the Peconic Land Trust. The property has some of the most mature vines on the East End.



For Russ, acquisition of the land was logical. The vines sit just to the north of McCall’s main vineyard and ranch operations—which includes over 20 acres of protected vines, pastures for his Charolais cattle and a tasting room. At the newly acquired property, McCall is farming 16 acres of vines for his own vineyard operations, including five acres of newly planted Sauvignon Blanc and two acres of newly planted Syrah. In addition, he is leasing 17 acres to other farmers: an East Marion family who are growing tomatoes on five acres and another winemaker with 12 acres of Chardonnay grapes. “It’s paradise for a farmer, my best vineyard land—high, well drained, open. Just really good ground,” he adds.

The property was originally acquired by the Trust in 2006 using its Revolving Fund, and a simultaneous sale of the development rights to the Town of Southold. As a consequence of this sale to Russ, the Revolving Fund is replenished so that the Trust can acquire and protect more land!

McCall’s conservation work with us dates back to the late 1990s when we worked with Russ, the Baxter family, the Town of Southold and Suffolk County to protect over 150 acres, including farmland, woodlands and the historic Fort Corchaug site in Cutchogue—land that sits just to the south of this recent transaction. “Thank you Russ for being a leader and partner in the protection of important agricultural and historic resources in our community,” said Trust Vice President Tim Caufield. 🌿



Quail Hill Farm: 25 Years

. . . A note from Scott Chaskey

I would like to tell the brief story of a not atypical harvest day at Quail Hill Farm. As is our custom, farm members arrive beginning at 8:00 am to harvest from the Valley and from Birch Hill, the fields we have expanded into to provide for the 250 families who now participate in our CSA. Although 10 families began this experiment in Community Supported Agriculture on Butter Lane, the CSA had expanded to about 75 Shareholders when John v.H. Halsey welcomed the idea of a community farm to be located on the Amagansett farmland donated to the Peconic Land Trust by Deborah Ann Light. The concept of CSA was brand new to this country, and the Trust was inventing a way to serve as a creative steward of conserved land.



Iman Marghoob from Stony Brook School of Medicine

On this harvest day in early Autumn, 2014, farm members—after visiting the farmstand to check availability—could find the following crops to harvest in the field: lettuce, cabbage, kale, collards, tomatoes (still!), tomatillos, ground cherries, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, daikon radish, tatsoi, dill and cilantro, potatoes, pumpkins, flowers, and at

the stand, brought from other fields, beets, autumn squash, wheatberries, and garlic. We now plant over 500 varieties of 60 or so crops—to keep it lively, and to encourage diversity in our fields. To increase fertility in our fields, for 25 years we have added compost and trace minerals, tested the soil to correct the Ph, mulched with leaves and straw, and applied cover crops—oats and bell beans or peas, rye and clover—to nourish the earth. Farm members taste the difference—in mineral content, and in flavor that comes from freshness and is ultimately the gift of healthy soils. We have learned from and we honor the generations of stewards who have preceded us. In the words of Aldo Leopold: “The land consists of soils, water, plants, and animals, but health is more than a sufficiency of these comments. It is a state of vigorous self-renewal

in each of them, and in all collectively.”



Beekeeper Mary Woltz



Apprentice Ella Fleming with Scott Chaskey

Education has always been central to our mission. At 1:00 pm Meryl Rosofsky arrives with her class of NYU graduate students—in Food Studies—to introduce them to our individual model of conservation and community farming (for 10 years or more we were the only example of this in the country). We meet and talk and question, together, and we are joined by John de Cuevas and Jess Engle from the Amagansett Food Institute, by our brilliant and soulful beekeeper, Mary Woltz, of Bee’s Needs, and by Sean Barrett, of Dock to Dish, one of the country’s first Community Supported Fisheries (CSF). We discuss land protection, field husbandry, the economics of

farming and fishing, community building, plants and people, how to involve the next generation (they are before us), sustainability. I accept, and we continue to practice the definition of that word as chosen by Wendell Berry: "...there must be a cultural cycle, in harmony with the fertility cycle, also continuously turning in place. The cultural cycle is an unending conversation between old people and young people, assuring the survival of local memory, which has, as long as it remains local, the greatest practical urgency and value. This is what is meant, and is all that can be meant, by 'sustainability.' The fertility cycle turns by the law of nature. The cultural cycle turns on affection."



At about 3:00 pm Kadija arrives from Bellport, with her family of multiple generations. For four years we have served as farmer-advisors to a project begun by Dr. Josephine Connolly-Schoonen, of the Stony Brook School of Medicine—we have helped to create 10 community gardens in low income areas of Suffolk County. Kadija, who has gardened with our seedling plants in one of these community gardens, learned that we have an autumn field abundant with sweet potato plants. The leaves of this plant—which we have learned to grow in the cooler climate of the Northeast—are an essential part of African cuisine. When I took Kadija to our sweet potato patch she exclaimed: "Oh, I have never seen a field so full of leaves!" Because the tubers are mature, and the leaves will be lost to the first frost, I encouraged her—as part of the extended community—to harvest with delight.



photo credit: Jane Weissman

As our farm members continue to do, until we close the gates at 5:30 pm. The peninsular light is casually brilliant over the silt loam fields at this time, the last sunflowers turning to face the sun descending. When we cultivate these fields we "invoke a cultural memory of caring," and we are aware of our inheritance on this fish-tailed island: we have chosen to protect and renew what we have been given.

Apprentice Michelle Katuna

We enter the story of a place like Quail Hill through the narrative of our individual lives, and through a pattern of lives that meet to form a collective response to soil, flower, fruit, and to the wild. To cultivate is to expand the boundaries of a single field, a single idea, and to enter into conversation with the ground of being, to prepare the seedbed for change. 🌱



photo credit: Jane Weissman

2014 Quail Hill Farm Crew



Reel Point Restoration Focuses on Native Birds and Plants

On Shelter Island, the Peconic Land Trust's Reel Point Preserve has been the focus of significant attention from stewardship staff, with a dredging and beach nourishment project undertaken in partnership with the Town and the Suffolk County Department of Public Works (SCDPW), and the installation of a new osprey pole.

The preserve, originally donated to the Trust by the Stern family in 1995, is a 7.7-acre peninsula in the Ram Island area of Shelter Island, with beach front on Gardiners Bay and Coecles Harbor. Since accepting the donation, the Trust has worked in cooperation with the residents of Ram Island and First Coastal Corporation to install sand fencing and plant beach grass plugs to help mitigate the erosion and nourish the beach. Unfortunately, Superstorm Sandy in 2012 took its toll, moving a significant amount of the beach into the harbor, inlet, and bay, making boating treacherous.

In early June 2013, the Coecles Harbor inlet was successfully dredged by Shelter Island Town, with the dredged material placed onto the beach at Reel Point.

In November, SCDPW dredged an additional 30,000 cubic yards of bay bottom from Gardiners Bay, which was also moved to the beach at Reel Point. These two dredging efforts increased the depth of the channel between the bay and the harbor and will help the beach withstand the impact of future storms.



In 2014, the stabilization of the beach continued with the installation of beach grass plugs by Trust staff, volunteers and First Coastal Corporation. Additional planting of native species, including beach plum and bayberry, is planned along the peninsula as part of the management plan developed by South Fork Stewardship Manager Matt Swain and Vice President of Stewardship Pam Greene. The Trust is actively seeking funds from public and private grant sources, as well as from individual donors, to defray the expenses needed to support this fragile beach ecosystem.

Ospreys Returned

Ospreys arrive in the Long Island region as early as mid-April, after migrating from as far as South America, and seek out tall nesting platforms situated near shallow, fish-filled water.

These hawks survive almost exclusively on fish caught with their sharp talons, and the bays and wetlands of the East End are the perfect environment for them to thrive.

Since the late 1990s Reel Point Preserve has had an osprey nesting site. Storms, most significantly Superstorm Sandy, have had a major impact on the stability of the nesting pole.

Prior to the dredging in June 2013, a refurbished osprey pole made from a locust tree was installed at Reel Point with the assistance of Shelter Island residents and staff from The Nature Conservancy's Mashomack Preserve. While the pole was not in place early enough in 2013 for the returning nesting pair to make use of it, they did return to nest on the new pole in 2014.

– Kathy Kennedy. 🌿



Bridge Gardens Deepens its Focus on Sustainability

... A note from Rick Bogusch

Over the past six seasons, through landscape design, programming and partnerships, we have worked very hard to enhance Bridge Gardens as a valuable community asset. The gardens were the passion of Jim Kilpatrick and Harry Neyens for 20 years when they donated the property to the Trust in 2008. Since then, Bridge Gardens has been a gathering place for the Trust's education programs as well as an outdoor classroom and demonstration garden for the East End community and beyond.

In this process, the gardens and plantings have become more diversified, creating lush, attractive spaces with unique features that evolve through the seasons—even winter. We've added many shrubs, grasses and perennials native to Long Island and the eastern United States, as well non-invasive exotics appropriate for the East End climate and landscape.



New additions of particular note include Georgia Plume (*Elliottia racemosa*) and Cinnamon Summersweet (*Clethra acuminata*), both native to the south and planted this fall. Nearby, the not-so-native Koehne holly (which we were able to plant last year thanks to a generous donation from Mahoney Tree Farm) forms a wonderfully textured evergreen backdrop brightened by hundreds of clusters of shiny red berries.

Haven't had a chance to visit, or would like to revisit? We've been fortunate this year to have had professional photographer Jeff Heatley document the seasonal changes of Bridge Gardens starting in March 2014. His online photo essay (www.aaqeastend.com) includes monthly installments beginning with visually stunning black and whites that reflect the late winter garden as well as lush, full color images of the garden's bounty during the summer and fall.

Spotlight on Food

In 2014, we hosted over 20 educational and recreational programs, many increasingly focused on sustainable living. With workshops on composting and vegetable gardening, panel discussions about locally grown and produced food and beverages, a seminar on sustainable lawn care, arts programs and our popular Fridays at Six music nights, as well as many informative walks through the gardens, Bridge Gardens is indeed the classroom and community

resource it's supposed to be with a strong focus on growing and preparing food.

As it has since its beginning in 2010, the Vegetable Garden once again inspired visitors to "grow their own" and showed them how to do so in a relatively small space and with high yields. As in years past, we provided produce on a weekly basis to the Sag Harbor Food Pantry; volunteer Joe Lane harvested over 100 lbs. of green beans for the pantry this season, in addition to tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, onions, cilantro, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, carrots and lots of greens. We're especially pleased that our first harvest was in early March and they have continued through this fall.



photo credit: Jeff Heatley

Next year, we hope to make the gardens even more productive, not only in our existing Vegetable Garden, but also in new community garden space on the site of the former lavender garden. More news on this exciting new program will be announced in early 2015!

Sustainable Partnerships

In 2014, we partnered with Edwina von Gal's Perfect Earth Project (PEP) to bring Paul Wagner of Treewise to Bridge Gardens every Thursday this fall to answer your lawn care questions for free. Early fall is the best time to install and renovate lawns, so Paul's regular and knowledgeable presence on site was timely and much appreciated. We are still taking questions via email at LawnExpert@PeconicLandTrust.org. Feel free to reach out!

Furthering this partnership, Bridge Gardens, with the guidance and assistance of PEP and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, installed 5,000 square feet of turf grass demonstration plots in the fall of 2014. Visitors in 2015 will be able to see the variety of lawns available and suitable for the East End, as well as learn how to care for each type in a sustainable way.

We look forward to your visits next year! Visit our website (www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Bridge_Gardens) for updates on our 2015 programming, including our Winter Lecture series starting in March, sustainable lawn care programs, arts programming, and our new community gardens. 🌱

THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS



photo credit: Richard Lewin

Peconinic 2013 at Mecox Bay Dairy and Fairview Farm: The Ludlow Family



photo credit: Richard Lewin

Through Farms and Fields 2013 at the Port of Missing Men: The Salm Family



photo credit: Phill Lehans

Through Farms and Fields 2014 at Ward's Point: Richard Hogan and Carron Sherry



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT
IN 2014!**

For more photos, visit us on Facebook!

2014: Community Recognition: Thank You!

New York Land Trust Community

At the New York State Land Conservation Summit's luncheon on April 11th, our President John v.H. Halsey was presented with a beautiful image of the Hudson Valley by noted photographer Steve Gordon, with an inscription: *To John Halsey and the Peconic Land Trust for their outstanding leadership, spirit of innovation and generous support of New York's land conservation community. Together we are saving the places that New Yorker's love. And, includes the quote: "I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own," Andy Warhol.*



Edible East End: Local Hero

In the spring, the readers of *Edible East End* voted the Trust its Local Hero in the Non-Profit category. In announcing the award, *Edible* editors wrote: "The East End has been at the vanguard of land preservation countrywide. Peconic Land Trust's new push to keep preserved land in food production can only mean a better future."



LI Imagine Awards: Social Impact

In June, the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative won the Social Impact honors at the Long Island Imagine Awards. Said Ken Cerini of Cerini & Associates (the sponsor of the Social Impact Award and founder of the LI Imagine Awards): "Being an individual who loves the outdoors and open space, but also understands the need for self-sustainability, leveraged results, and measurable impact, I was thrilled when the Trust won the Social Impact Award. With the continued growth on Long Island, it is great to see an agency like the Peconic Land Trust is ensuring that open space and agriculture are preserved here on Long Island.

Thanks to their efforts, and the people who support them, Long Island will continue to be a little greener, a little healthier, and a little tastier for generations to come."



Ken Cerini and Dan Heston

WPPB: Community Leader

On September 15, 2014 John was once again honored, this time by the East End's local national public radio station, WPPB—Peconic Public Broadcasting—with its first Community Leader Award: "John's work has impacted every person who lives in our community and has positively affected the quality of life in our region . . . John quietly leads in our community in many ways—through his work on various Boards of other not-for-profit organizations that serve our community, contributing his vision and insights to make our community a better place to live, through his dedication, constancy, and caring of individuals here, as a leader in his field of land conservation, and a leader among the not-for-profit community on Long Island and the New York region," said WPPB's President and General Manager Wally Smith.



Wally Smith, Emma Clurman, Ed German, John v.H. Halsey

AFPLI: Fundraising

In November, Trust Vice President of Philanthropy Rebecca A. Chapman was recognized for her contributions by her peers and the Association of Fundraising Professionals Long Island Chapter Philanthropy Day as Outstanding Fundraising Executive of the Year. Catherine Tully Muscente, Chair of Philanthropy Day 2014 and Director of Development at Molloy College stated, "AFPLI is very proud to honor Rebecca at this year's Philanthropy Day as a shining example of the profound impact that a skilled fundraiser can have on an organization and on the world around them. We congratulate Rebecca and honor her for her dedication to the success of the Peconic Land Trust, and for personifying what a fundraising professional can and should be." 🌿



Rebecca Chapman

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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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