



COMMUNITIES MAKE CONSERVATION HAPPEN

Rallying communities in support of protecting farms, woodlands, wetlands, and more has been a cornerstone of the Peconic Land Trust's work since 1983. The land and water that surrounds us is indicative of our history and traditions, and is also a common bond with our families, friends, and neighbors.

In the summer of 2015, the Trust joined with members of the Orient community, the Town of Southold and the Edwards Family to protect nearly 21 acres of farmland, woodlands and wetlands that have been in the extended families of the Edwards', Latham's and Terry's since the early 19th century. Siblings Elbert and Harriet Edwards recently inherited the quaint bayside farm from their mother, Marion Latham Edwards, with the hope of seeing the land protected and preserved for future generations.

"My sister Harriet and I were pleased to work with the Trust to conserve our land – which has been in our family for six generations. By preserving the land, we are also preserving our family's agricultural history. This is an outcome we had always hoped for," said Elbert Edwards.

In addition to the Edwards family and the Town of Southold, this project would not be possible without the support of the community, an ongoing effort.

"Those of us who live on the North Fork are accustomed to seeing bumper stickers exhorting us to 'Save What's Left' in our beloved area. This is a splendid opportunity for our community to do precisely that," explains John Henry, Orient resident and a member of the community conservation effort.

"When I first visited the North Fork more than 20 years ago, I was originally attracted to this area because of the rural landscape dotted with farms," added Orient resident Ann ffolliott. "Saving the Edwards Farm has so many beneficial possibilities for this community. It preserves the landscape that everyone loves and can provide an opportunity in the future for new generations of farmers to continue to make a living here – helping to keep Orient vital and not only a community for summer people, weekenders and retirees."

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President's Letter: John v.H. Halsey

Join Us

You are us, and we are you! The Trust's staff, board, volunteers, and donors come from all over Long Island and beyond. We are your fellow residents, neighbors, and friends with the skills, talents,

experience, and passion necessary to conserve Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage – everything that we know and love in our communities.

With your support, we have worked with landowners, all levels of government, partner organizations, and communities to protect approximately 12,000 acres critical to our lives and livelihoods, but we are not done yet! Together, we can do more to ensure a future that includes fresh local produce, safe drinking water, cleaner and more productive bays, new recreational opportunities, buildings and landscapes indicative of our history, and more.

It takes many hands to protect and steward the land and resources around us. So how can you increase our collective impact?

- 1) You can encourage your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to join us in our work by making an annual contribution.
- 2) You can bring new people to our Connections programs and events like our Peconic and Through Farms & Fields.

This will expand their awareness of our work and the land and resources around them.

3) You can be a model for others by buying locally and living more sustainably at home. How you steward your own property and conserve our resources makes a difference. You can inspire others to do likewise.

4) You can learn about the factors that exacerbate the development around us including local, state, and federal tax policies. Speak your mind and inform others.

People like you, our partners in conservation, make it possible for us to protect the farms, land, and waters that define our community. From oceanfront in Southampton to a shellfish hatchery in Southold... from beech forests and farmland in Amagansett to productive soils and Sound frontage in Riverhead... from historic properties on Shelter Island and Orient to an apple orchard in Northport... from working farms in Sagaponack to wetlands along the Forge River . . . you make it possible to conserve more of this in our communities now and in the future. With your help to bring new people to our cause, we can increase the pace and impact of conservation on Long Island.

Thank you for making our important work possible! We could not do it without you!

Legacy Of Deborah Ann Light

by Scott Chaskey



I have told this story at Quail Hill Farm so many times over the years it must be woven into the textures of our fields. About 5 years following her donation of 20 acres of land to the Peconic Land Trust, in 1994,

Deborah Ann Light was diagnosed with lung cancer; she was told that she had 6 months to live. She had a strong desire to settle her estate, so she set in motion a really great gift to the Trust, and to all of us—the donation of her remaining farmland, totaling almost 200 acres, the farmland and woodland that we have stewarded for 20 years now. Until now I would end the story with this: "And she is still alive!"

Although Deborah passed away on the 21st of July her legacy is very much alive at Quail Hill: in the beech and holly, sycamore and oak, applewood and milkweed, the daffodils and narcissi that return every Spring in pockets in our woods. The legacy of this great lady—"who was known to enjoy making an entrance"—extends far beyond

north Amagansett, but we are perhaps at the center of it.

Visitors to Quail Hill often comment on a certain quality that informs the place, something it was our good fortune to inherit through Deborah, an inspired quilter: magic is woven into the fabric of our fields.

In my 2005 book, "This Common Ground," I wrote this about our "Hedgewitch" philanthropist:

"The rock that celebrates Deborah Light's gift of land is there, not far from the spreading limbs of a pin oak tree we planted in 1990. We moved it half a mile to where it now rests, by some miracle of tractor and trailer, and will. I remember having a certain lack of confidence in the procedure, and also my thought: "Will she like the rock?"

She does.

Speaking from near Main Street, Sag Harbor, her new home, she told me, "At one time, out for a walk, if I would climb Quail Hill and crouch down, and, if I really squinted with my eyes and looked out, I owned all the land I could see."

Recently, I happened to read in a book by the poet Lorine Niedecker some words that have relevance:

**Black Hawk held: In reason
Land cannot be sold,
Only things to be carried away...**

Deborah gave her land away because she did not consider it solely "hers." Land is not, as we have come to value it, only a bundle of rights; it is, as Native American elders pointed out, a complex web of relationships. Deborah is linked to the land within that web, and we are entwined with the filament.

The granite stone bearing words honors her, as do the people who come to harvest from our shared land. Each individual is common to this ground, one among many:

I speak from the hill near to the sea:

I am the wind that moves the grass.

I am the iron within the stone.

I am the water that seeks the valley.

I am the bark of oak, heartwood of holly.

I am the seed within the pod,

Within the tear,

Within the tide.

I am the sky woman,

Invisible within the wing

That touches ground and air

To rise and sing...

All of us at the Trust are deeply indebted to Deborah for her vision and service on our Board of Directors. We will forever remember her spirit and commitment to the East End and are grateful for her trust in us to care for the land she once stewarded.

Farmland Conservation: *Continued from page 1*

John Henry and Ann Ffolliott, along with Anne Hopkins, Dianne Benner, Board member Joseph Townsend, and others are working with the Trust's Tim Caufield and Luke McKay to raise \$450,000 to complete this important conservation effort.

The funds raised through the community will not only ensure that the property is protected from development, but also that its natural habitat areas will be restored and that its farmland will be farmed, now and in the future.



In September, the Trust acquired the property for \$1.09 million – the Town of Southold played a critical role by bringing \$700,000 to the table from its Community Preservation Fund to purchase development restrictions on the property. The balance, including transaction expenses and land restoration costs, is \$450,000. Fortunately, the Edwards family has agreed to a three-year installment sale, giving the Trust and the community time to raise this sum. As of November 2015, nearly \$80,000 has been raised toward the effort with donations and pledges from almost a dozen individuals and families.

"We are very excited about this project and our ongoing conversations with the community," said Tim Caufield, explaining that **the protection of this historically significant property would not have been possible without the patience of the Edwards Family, the steadfast commitment to land preservation from the Town of Southold, and the financial support from many generous members of the local community.** "We look forward to working with the community to protect the rural and agricultural heritage that has always been so much a part of Orient's special sense of place."

Thanks to efforts by the Trust, New York State, Suffolk County, Southold Town, and the community itself, over 600 acres of valuable farmland, woodlands, wetlands, and coastline have been permanently protected between Narrow River Road and the Cross Sound Ferry terminal, making Orient one of Long Island's most treasured places. The Edwards Farm is now a part of this impressive assemblage.

Orient has a rich and vibrant agricultural history, where families such as the Browns, Kings, Lathams, Terrys and many others have farmed for generations. The Trust, through its Farms for the Future Initiative, will continue to work with the Orient community – as well as communities throughout the East End – to ensure that agriculture remains a part of its fabric for generations to come.

The cultivated farmland is currently leased to Danny and Patty Latham of Latham Farms. In addition, the Oysterponds Rod and Gun Club's use of the woodlands and wetlands for hunting will continue through the Trust's Wildlife Management Program. The Rod and Gun Club will also hunt on the adjacent Orville Terry Preserve, nine acres of woodlands and wetlands donated to the Trust in 1989 by Joyce Terry in memory of her late husband, Orville Terry, a renowned naturalist.

With its prime soils, wooded natural habitat and wetlands, scenic vistas and access to Little Bay, the Edwards property will provide the Trust with opportunities to work with the Orient community on stewardship projects and educational programs for years to come. And with its inclusion in the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative, it will support food production farming and provide solutions to a growing challenge that farmers face – affordable access to protected farmland.



The Edwards family with Luke McKay and Southold Town's Melissa Spiro

"Not only can this preservation help to assure the continued agricultural use of the land, but it can also provide the opportunity for passive open space uses that benefit the entire community," added John Henry.

Interested in learning more and in contributing to this fundraising effort? Contact Tim Caufield or Luke McKay at 631.283.3195 or TCaufield@PeconicLandTrust.org or LMcKay@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Farms for the Future Initiative: Leasing

An important component of the Trust's Farms for the Future program is leasing to farmers – both those new to the business and those looking for additional farmland to grow their business.

In 2014, we leased to over a dozen farm operations across the East End, including:

Deborah Light Preserve & Town Lane Preserve, Amagansett:

Balsam Farms • Amber Waves Farm • Bees' Needs • Amagansett Sea Salt
• Bhumi Farms • World Wide Le Lapin

Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm, Southold:

Sang Lee Farms • Invincible Summer Farms • From Scratch Farm • Akio Shoji
• KLM Mushrooms • The Growing Seed • Wild Feast Foods • The Farm Beyond

For more information, visit our website at www.peconiclandtrust.org/localfood

Trust & Partners in Ag Create New Capital Funding Program



Capital Helps Farmers Grow

In 2013, the Peconic Land Trust received a grant from the Long Island Community Foundation to assist Suffolk County update its Farmland Protection Plan. In order to do so, the Trust conducted a survey of farmers with the County to understand both their challenges and concerns. While a majority of farmers expressed both the desire and intent to expand and invest in their farms, they identified high production costs and access to capital as major impediments.

Indeed, farmers across Long Island face a variety of challenges whether they are starting or sustaining a successful farm. Regulations, whether new or old, often mean large investments in new equipment and infrastructure. If an established farmer wants to change or upgrade their crop or operation, or meet the requirements of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, they will incur major costs before they can even start production. New farmers need a gamut of tools and equipment to establish their operations. All of these endeavors require one thing: capital.



It was clear that something more had to be done to provide needed capital for new and established farmers alike. “We can keep farmers on Long Island, and even grow new farmers, if we give them the financial capacity to buy new tractors, build greenhouses, adapt

renewable energy technologies, invest in environmentally sustainable equipment, and come into compliance with food safety and water quality regulations,” stated John v.H. Halsey.

The Trust, with the encouragement and support of its agricultural partners – **Suffolk County, Long Island Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Long Island Wine Council, Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center, Farm Credit East and Edible East End** – submitted a 2014 proposal to the **Long Island Regional Economic Development Council (LIREDC)** that was ultimately approved to create the Long Island Agricultural Capital Equipment Grant Program. The program is funded by a \$1 million grant through **Empire State Development (ESD)**. The new grant program creates a pool of financial resources to assist Nassau and Suffolk County farmers with capital investments for their farming operations. We have worked hard to ensure that the terms for grants reflect the needs and concerns of Long Island farmers.

Announced in May 2015, applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis over three years until the funds are fully used.

Under the grant program, both new and established farmers are eligible for a capital grant to start or transition to a new commodity, method of production or business plan. In addition, grants are available to purchase equipment necessary to meet new food safety regulations. The funds are provided on a reimbursement basis for up to 20% of the purchase of new or used capital equipment and infrastructure, with a maximum award per farmer/farm operation of \$25,000. Full eligibility and program guidelines are available on our website.

Applications have already been received and pre-approved, and with more time to devote to the application process in the winter season, we expect to see many more farmers apply in the coming months. Luke McKay, Project Manager, Peconic Land Trust and participant in the review committee encourages farmers to take advantage of this great opportunity:

“This grant program is intended to help all farmers on Long Island and the sky is really the limit for the types of equipment and infrastructure that are eligible. We are making ourselves available to meet with farmers on a one-on-one basis to discuss their capital investment ideas and projects. We are more than willing to walk them through the application process.”

Pre-approval has already been granted to 100% of the farmers that have applied. These include:

- Paul McCormick of Great Gun Shellfish, for a skiff and outboard motor to start an oyster farm in Moriches Bay;
- Mays Farm located in Wading River, for converting its greenhouses from electric to fuel efficient and cost effective natural gas;
- Kawasaki Greenhouses in Center Moriches, to produce sedum mats for green roofing; and
- Chris Wines of Riverhead, to cover infrastructure costs related to converting his family’s potato farm to a dairy farm for milk, including fencing, irrigation, a manure spreader for the cows, and an 80-gallon milk tank.

These are only a few of the great projects that are possible with the Ag Capital Equipment Program.

For more information or to apply please visit www.peconiclandtrust.org/AgCap 🌿

2015 Long Island Community Foundation Grant

Part of the conditions from Empire State Development (ESD) concerning the disbursement of the Agricultural Capital Equipment Grant stipulates that 100% of the funds must be allocated to the farmers. This means that no administrative costs incurred by the Peconic Land Trust can be covered by the grant. To support our work on the program, the Trust applied for a grant from the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF). We are very pleased that LICF awarded the Trust with \$25,000 to help cover these costs, which include meetings with farmers to discuss purchases and offer guidance, review of applications, and administrative time working with New York State and ESD.

Protecting & Exploring Vital Coastal Lands



Former Residential Property Protected, Restored and Added to Conscience Bay State Tidal Wetland

The issue of water quality and coastal resiliency are deeply important to many communities on Long Island. Through purchases, stewardship, and restoration, the Peconic Land Trust is working with government agencies, partner organizations, and communities to shore up our water resources and coastlines.



Most recently, your support enabled the Trust to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to protect and restore a former residential property along Conscience Bay in East Setauket. The 1.12-acre property, adjacent to the DEC's 52-acre Conscience Bay State Tidal Wetland Area, was acquired by the Trust in September 2014 – an expeditious acquisition as the property

was in foreclosure. The Trust acquired the property, with an understanding that the DEC was interested in adding the property to the protected wetland area. This transfer between the Trust and the DEC occurred on Earth Day, April 22, 2015. This conservation would not have happened had we not stepped in!

The DEC purchased the property with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Long Island Sound Study Initiative. In October 2015, the existing home and ancillary structures were removed. The addition of this property to the Conscience Bay State Tidal Wetland Area enhances its resiliency by providing flood storage, storm surge buffers, water quality improvements, and wildlife habitat. For more on the Long Island Sound Study, visit longislandsoundstudy.net

The Trust used its revolving fund, The Peter Jay Sharp Fund for the Environment, plus a low-interest loan from a long-time donor to make this happen. These types of short-term funding options, made possible through the generosity of people like you, enable the Trust to act quickly on conservation opportunities like this project. Thank you to all who make our work possible! 🌿

5th Graders at Greenport Elementary Adopt Widow's Hole Preserve

Mrs. Pawlik and her students bring life and activity to the bay

On a beautiful crisp autumn morning, in waves of two, 40 5th graders from the Greenport Elementary School are traversing the shoreline of the Widow's Hole Preserve – seining, sampling, sketching and exploring the bay as part of an East End-wide program "Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary" organized by Brookhaven National Lab. This year, over 900 students took part in the program all along the estuary.

This is just the most recent of a series of visits to Widow's Hole Preserve by Stephanie Pawlik and her 5th graders – the newest of the Trust's preserves on 4th Street and located on the estuary on Shelter Island Sound. Since November 2014, Mrs. Pawlik and her students have adopted the preserve as their own, visiting for study and to lend a hand in coastal clean-up. "Widow's Hole Preserve truly became an outdoor classroom," said Mrs. Pawlik in a recent article in the Greenport Schools newsletter.

With support from the Trust's North Fork Stewardship Manager Denise Markut, parents including Yvonne Lieblein and local community volunteers Captain David Berson, Will Lieblein, Skylar Gillespie (a college student now, but once one of Mrs. Pawlik's 5th graders), and Melissa Bondarchuk were on site working with the students to collect and examine samples from the estuary on this most recent fall morning. Over the year, the students are learning about the history, ecology, and conservation of our bays, wetlands and woodlands.



Mrs. Pawlik was introduced to Widow's Hole Preserve by School Superintendent David Gamberg, who has worked with Denise in the development of the farm-based learning program with 4th & 5th graders from Southold Elementary at the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm. Mr. Gamberg, who knew about the conservation effort, thought Widow's Hole could be a great place to connect students with nature.

With journals, iPads, digital cameras, and inquisitive minds the students are collecting data and recording progress. Their plans in the future include helping with invasive plant removal, cultivating and planting native plant species and general maintenance and cleanup.

We are so happy to have the students at the Preserve!

Do you know a school or community group who would like to get more involved at a Preserve in your neighborhood? Contact Pam Greene, Vice President of Stewardship, at 631.283.3195 or PGreene@PeconicLandTrust.org

Conservation Accomplishments

Natural Lands, Historic Preservation and Farmland Conservation



Next-Generation Farmer Rises in Water Mill: Hank Kraszewski, III

Passing farmland to the next generation of a farm family is something to celebrate! And so it was when Hank Kraszewski, III, purchased 19.2 acres of conserved land in Water Mill from the Trust. This project began in the summer of 2014 when the Trust acquired the property from the Estate of Charlotte Danilevsky. This would not have been possible without the Town of Southampton's simultaneous purchase of enhanced development restrictions on the farmland and your support of the Trust.

Once acquired, we distributed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek a local farmer to purchase the farmland. Melanie Cirillo, our Director of Conservation Planning, oversaw the process to find a farmer who would take advantage of its location and work the land under the Town's new easement restrictions. The enhanced restrictions require that at least 80% of the land be in food production and preclude its use for horses, ball and burlap nurseries, or vineyards. In addition, if the farmland is sold in the future, it must be sold to a qualified farmer at a price based on its original restricted value with its annual appreciation capped at 3.5%. Such restrictions prevent the purchase of the land at very high prices by non-farmers.



In reviewing responses to the RFP, Hank's business plan rose to the top. The land was in close proximity to other family farmland – a critical factor due to our heavy summer traffic.

Hank remarked, "I'm looking forward to working with my family – my mother and father – and to growing the business

alongside my dad. Buying this farmland is important for the future of our family farm – we know that this is land that we will never lose and will have forever."

"We are pleased to be able to put the farmland back into the hands of an active farmer here on the East End – and especially a farmer who represents the 3rd generation of farming on the South Fork," said John v.H. Halsey, President.

Community Effort Preserves Agricultural Heritage in Wainscott: Weigley Farmland



Securing land that preserves community character is one of the Trust's highest priorities. The protection of 4.2 acres of productive farmland in Wainscott, owned by Jane and James Weigley,

certainly served this purpose. Kim Quarty, one of the Trust's Project Managers, worked closely with the Weigleys who sold the development rights on their land to East Hampton Town and the Trust as 2015 was upon us. The Trust's role in the protection of this farmland, located at the corner of historic Wainscott Main Street and Beach Lane, was made possible through the generosity of members of the Georgia Association and the broader community. This community fundraising initiative was managed by Kim and Rebecca Chapman, the Trust's Vice President of Philanthropy. Over \$2.6 million in private money was raised from nearly 100 families to bridge the gap between the Town's contribution of about \$4.4 million from its Community Preservation Fund and the \$7 million purchase price. →

Trust Collaborates with Southampton Town on Updated Farm & Farmland Strategy

In the late 1990s, Peconic Land Trust worked with the agricultural community and the Town of Southampton to prepare Southampton Town's Farm and Farmland Preservation Strategy. Over the years, as development pressures increased, it became clear that tools and strategies to conserve the farmland needed to be revised to identify and address present-day challenges, most glaringly the increased value of protected farmland as a result of purchases by non-farmers for use as an amenity.

In April of 2015, the Trust was awarded a grant to support a collaborative effort with the Town of Southampton to update the plan. The grant

came from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Land Trust Alliance, through the Conservation Partnership Program (CPP) of the Environmental Protection Fund. The Trust's staff, coordinated by Conservation Design Manager Dawn Haight, is working with the Town Board along with staff in the departments of Planning and Community Preservation, and the Advisory committees on Agriculture and Community Preservation, on the updated plan, which is anticipated to be released in early 2016.

"I am pleased that the Town of Southampton has the opportunity to continue our beneficial relationship with the Peconic Land Trust, as we continue to explore critically important strategies to keep our local farms in food production," said Southampton



Dawn Haight, DEC's Joe Martens, Bridget Fleming

Town Councilwoman Bridget Fleming. "We hope and expect that others throughout New York State can learn from our experiences and planning as we face the realities of supporting farms and the business of farming in the face of significant pressure toward development because, after all, farm is a verb."

This was not the first community fundraising effort in Wainscott, but rather the third in a series of projects that has now conserved 25.7 farmland acres in this rural corner of East Hampton. In early 2006, the Trust partnered with the Town to purchase the development rights on 19.7 acres of farmland from Andy Babinski and his son Billy. The Trust initiated a fundraising effort for this project, and over 110 residents of the community including the Georgica Association generously contributed about \$2.2 million in order to bridge the gap between the Town's resources and the selling price. The second transaction, later in 2006, protected 3 acres along Sayres Path owned by the Conklin family, which included a historic façade easement on their 18th century house and barn as well as easements on 1.8 acres of their 3-acre parcel. Over 105 residents generously donated funds, raising nearly two-thirds of the \$2.8 million purchase price.

Preserving a Piece of Stony Brook History: The Sleight House: Elizabeth & Brian Merrick

Motivated by the loss of historic homes in their Stony Brook neighborhood, Elizabeth and Brian Merrick decided to donate a Historic Preservation and Conservation Easement on their home this past spring. "This house has been important to my family for a long time, and we wanted to make sure that its historic character would always be preserved. We're so pleased that our partnership with the Peconic Land Trust has enabled us to accomplish this," said Mrs. Merrick.



Known locally as the Sleight House and already designated a landmark by Brookhaven Town, the home was built around 1880 by Charles M. Sleight, a prominent wheelwright and carpenter, whose wife, Adella Abigail Sleight, was a descendant of Brookhaven's

first settlers. The family's archives are a part of the collection of the Three Village Historical Society.

By placing an easement on the Sleight House, a Folk Victorian home with Queen Anne embellishments, along with the surrounding 1.2-acre property, the Merricks have gone above and beyond local regulations and permanently protected the home and surrounding property's historic, cultural, scenic, and aesthetic values. Care was taken by Luke McKay, one of the Trust's Project Managers, to craft the easement with the needs of future landowners in mind, especially with respect to its possible future uses and marketability. Luke conferred with other historic preservation organizations, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Society for Protection of Long Island Antiquities, both of whom have a wealth of experience with historic preservation easement restrictions.

With their input and that of the Merricks' attorney, the easement limits changes to the home's footprint, façade, elevations, fenestration, and roofs along with the accessory structures, including a privy, garage, pool house and other small structures on the 1.2-acre site.

The Trust worked with another expert to confirm the historic values of the Sleight House and the surrounding property. Stony Brook architect John Cunniffe, who participates on the Town's Historic District Advisory Committee, completed a detailed report identifying the historic architectural features of the Sleight House and facilitated the landmark designation by the Town.

"With the Merricks' foresight and the Peconic Land Trust's skill set to properly guide and execute this easement, not only does the historic nature of the Sleight House remain protected, but a new precedent has been set in this very important historic corridor. The preservation of "context" has been achieved through this process and is, simply put, priceless," said Mr. Cunniffe.



Shelter Island Easement Protects Historic Character and Water Quality: Rich Hogan and Carron Sherry

Reducing the impact of conventional landscaping practices on East End waters is a priority for the Trust. We hope that it will be increasingly important to waterfront landowners as well. Marine life is affected by fertilizers, road run off, and nitrogen from septic systems, all of which contribute to algae blooms as well as die-offs of both shellfish and finfish. When Carron Sherry and Rich Hogan of Shelter Island first expressed their interest in protecting the Italianate garden property that dated back to the early 1900s, Luke McKay was intrigued to learn more about its history. Ultimately the focus of this easement was to conserve the land for water quality purposes which is so important on Shelter Island. We welcomed the opportunity to help them achieve their goals.

In December 2014, the family donated a conservation easement to the Trust on a 4.79-acre portion of their property on Shelter Island Sound, which includes a formal Italian-style garden built by Ward, and a 100-foot natural buffer area along the property's waterfront. Their easement prohibits the use of any non-organic pesticides and fertilizers on the land and restricts the construction of hardening structures like bulkheads while allowing for more environmentally sensitive erosion control measures such as revetments. The easement also incorporates a management plan, drafted by Luke and Land Steward Matthew Swain, in order to guide future landowners on the sustainable management of the easement area including guidelines for the planting of native grasses and other vegetation to minimize impacts on the environment.

Luke noted that drafting the easement, which covers land in close proximity to the family's home and a 100 year-old formal garden, was challenging, since the land will be impacted by daily use. Extra attention was paid to ensure that the family would be able to enjoy the property while safeguarding the integrity of the property's conservation values. 🌿

Conservation Work Recognized Near & Far

US EPA 2015 Champion Award

In spring of 2015, across New York State organizations and individuals were awarded the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) highest recognition to the public, the Environmental Champion Award. Nominated by Congressman Lee Zeldin, Peconic Land Trust was amongst the recipients for its outstanding commitment to protecting and enhancing environmental quality and public health at a ceremony hosted by Judith Enck, EPA's



Regional Administrator of Region 2.

Twenty-five individuals and organizations were also honored by the EPA in 2015, including Susan Antenen of **Rockefeller State Park Preserve**, Jill Isenbarger from **Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture**, **Dred Scott Bird Sanctuary**, **University of Buffalo**, and other dedicated organizations and individuals in New York State. The Trust was honored to be included in such prestigious company.



In addition to John, Suffolk County Historical Society honored:

- **David Ebner**, an artist who creates furniture that is inspired by the environment of Suffolk County (often using local material) and is in the permanent collections at the Smithsonian Institute and the American Craft Museum.
- **Dr. Richard Wines**, a long time friend and supporter of the Peconic Land Trust, for his work with the community about the historic districts in Riverhead and Southold Town and his efforts to preserve special places including the Hallockville Museum Farm and the Jamesport Meeting House.
- **Dr. John Strong**, for his education efforts and research on Long Island Native American Culture.
- **The Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies (ASCHS)** Board of Directors, for their historical preservation and outreach in the County's towns, villages and communities.

All those awarded were lauded for their significant contributions, which have resulted in creating a more harmonious and compassionate community for all. Congratulations to all the honorees, we are grateful for all of their hard work towards enhancing Long Island. 🌿

Suffolk County Living Treasures 2015

On April 26, 2015, Suffolk County Historical Society honored individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to Suffolk County on behalf of arts, culture, history, and preservation. John v.H. Halsey was among the "Living Treasures," honored for his tireless work with the Peconic Land Trust and his dedication to recognizing and preserving the great agricultural traditions and history of Suffolk County and its role as a major agricultural region in New York State.

Through Farms and Fields 2015

We had a great time at the McCall Vineyard and Ranch for our first Through Farms and Fields on the North Fork. It was truly a magical celebration of conservation! Thank you to our host, Russell C. McCall and his family for all they have done to protect Long Island's working farms and natural lands. And to all of you for making conservation possible in our communities.

Rusty McCall, John v.H. Halsey, Nancy Gilbert, Russell McCall and Nicola Plimpton



Community Gardens Are Flourishing



Gardens at the Ag Center and Bridge Gardens Bring New Life

Have you noticed community gardens popping up in your neighborhood? They are tucked into urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods alike and are increasing in popularity. Most offer fertile soil, access to irrigation, and friendly gardening expertise from managers or members working nearby plots, plus an added benefit of exercise. Your community garden brings you closer to the source of your food, and a great way to make new friends.

and am now going on my fourth year. It's been great fun learning from Denise and the other gardeners, and experiencing this sense of community."

At the community gardens at **Bridge Gardens** in Bridgehampton, Manager Rick Bogusch and Assistant Ed Hagemeyer created 16 garden plots earlier this spring. Within one week, every single one was claimed, and garden members have been thrilled with the chance to grow vegetables and fruit without having to worry about deer or drought. Both Rick and Ed provide a wealth of advice to the gardeners – as well as lend a hand with weeding on occasion to keep the beds looking neat and productive.

"The stars of my inaugural community garden at Bridge Gardens this summer were yellow squash, cukes and cherry tomatoes," remarked gardener Francine Lynch. "I shared my bountiful harvest with friends and neighbors, many of whom did not know Bridge Gardens. Through my organic veggie gifts, I helped build awareness of this special place and the work of the Peconic Land Trust!" Building awareness of the many health benefits that result from growing your own food is an important aspect of all community gardens and building support for the work of the Trust is a natural by-product.

These community gardens are part of a larger programming focus at both sites that include workshops and classes on sustainable horticulture practices, organic methods, including composting, water management, starting and saving seeds, harvesting and canning or storing produce. Both community gardens, as well as the fields of Quail Hill Farm, are abundant in their harvest throughout the growing season, and the Trust has been very pleased over the years to be able to provide fresh produce to local food pantries in Sag Harbor, Southold, and East Hampton. 🌱



Francine Lynch Community Gardeners

The Trust offers two community garden options:

The **Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm's** garden in Southold, coordinated by North Fork Stewardship Manager Denise Markut, began in 2010 with 12, 4' by 10' raised beds and has grown to 50 plots of four different sizes. Nearly all our first-year gardeners are still working the soil! The most popular aspects of the community garden is its protection from foraging deer, and a sense of community that develops between gardeners. Nancy Muller shared, "I became a member the year Hurricane Sandy covered my home garden with salty water. I had envisioned one year at the Ag Center,

Sustainable Lawn & Landscaping at Bridge Gardens



Paul Wagner

With more land in lawn than farming on Long Island, the Trust is working with partners Edwina von Gal and Sean O'Neill of **Perfect Earth Project**, Tamson Yeh from **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County**, Sherryl Jones from **Peconic Estuary Program** and Paul Wagner of **Treewise**

Organics to provide educational resources to the homeowner and landscaping community on sustainable lawn and landscape alternatives alongside Bridge Gardens' Manager Rick Bogusch and Assistant Ed Hagemeyer.

As an outdoor classroom, Bridge Gardens has provided tips, advice and resources to many visitors with workshops on sustainable lawn care, bay-scaping, pest control, disease management and so much more... including our weekly lawn care advice on Wednesday afternoons with Paul and Rick, featured this summer on Mary Mucci's **Long Island Naturally** on News12 Long Island.

We are looking to expand our programming in 2016 – and remember, you can still submit your lawn care questions via email to LawnExpert@PeconicLandTrust.org!

Help us make our gardens grow! There's a lot happening at the gardens from programming to renovations to the entrance, signage and so much more. Want to learn more and get involved in the gardens evolution? Call Rick Bogusch or Pam Greene at 631.283.3195.



Thank you to the businesses that have supported Bridge Gardens in 2015 with services, materials and volunteers: **RB Irrigation, Marder's, Summerhill Landscaping, Mahoney Tree Care, Goldman Sachs and PSE&G.**

Plein Air Peconic Celebrates 10 Years

Collaboration Creates Stunning Representations of Long Island's Protected Landscapes.

For over 10 years, the artists of Plein Air Peconic (PAP) have been capturing the landscapes of the East End, preserving these natural settings in our memories.



Fifteen artists – *en plein air painters and landscape photographers* – have participated with Plein Air Peconic since 2006, including painters **Casey Chalem Anderson, Susan D'Alessio, Gordon Matheson, Michele Margit, Joanne Rosko** and photographers **Tom Steele** and **Kathryn Szoka**, all of whom have been with PAP since its inception.

Showing dynamic and dramatic images and talking to the public about the land, they have been successful artist ambassadors for the Trust.

Throughout the years, many other artists have participated in exhibitions under the Plein Air Peconic banner, including painters **Terry Elkins, Aubrey Grainger, Scott Hewitt, Gail Kern, Anita Kusick, Keith Mantell**, and **Eileen Dawn Skretch** and photographer **Ellen Watson**.

“Through their paintings and photographs the artists of Plein Air Peconic capture the effects of light and atmospheric conditions here on the East End of Long Island,” explained art historian Terry Wallace.



“The Hamptons are one of the most beautiful parts of New York and an inspiration to painters and photographers,” said Gordon Matheson, a founding member of Plein Air Peconic. “The farm vistas are right up there with the beaches, dunes and marshes for inspiration and we lose more of these vistas every year. The Peconic Land Trust is in the forefront of helping to conserve all of these irreplaceable areas so the collaboration of artists and land preservationists seemed a totally natural way for us to help save what is very important to us and to future generations. The Trust and their staff have always been an important part of the success of Plein Air Peconic.”



Birdhouses Find New Homes: Shelter Island

From the simple to the outrageous and architectural, the birdhouses donated by artists, conservationists, farmers, photographers, designers and friends for our second birdhouse auction on Shelter Island this summer brought smiles to the faces of all who joined us.

Thank you to gallery owner, **Mallory Samson**, our birdhouse builder **Brian Kennedy**, and all of our birdhouse designers for their inspiration and beautiful homes!

Jonathan Adler & Simon Doonan, Casey Chalem Anderson,

Lois Bender, Jackie Black, Kiki Boucher & Robin Drake, EJ Camp, Scott Chaskey, Susan D'Alessio, James DeMartis, Marie Eiffel & Jason Penney, Margaret Garrett, Bonnie Grice, John v.H. Halsey, Uma Halstead, Sylvia Hommert, Randy Kolhoff, Billy & Alexis Joel, Kathryn Lynch, Christine Matthai, Scott Murphy, Wayne Pate, Gabrielle Raacke, Gordian Raacke, David Rankin, Dan Rizzie, Anna Salsedo, David Van Scoy, Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, Robert Waife, Michael Weisman, Cynthia Wells, Rhea White & Steve Schappecher, Dabney Lee Woglom, James Wojcik, and Phoebe Wood.

Didn't get a chance to see the houses live? Visit our website for photos and bios on all the birdhouses and their designers at www.peconiclandtrust.org/shelter_island!



Long Island Grown: Conversations with Local Farmers and Food & Beverage Artisans

For the second year, we had a spectacular series of conversations with the women and men who are making the food we eat and the beverages we drink. Moderated by food writer **Laura Donnelly**, the Long Island Grown series has become a standing room only afternoon in the waning days of winter and early spring. This year's series featured a dynamic group, all focused on the menu:

The Drink with **Jennifer Halsey Dupree** of Milk Pail Farm, **Roman Roth** of Wolffer Estate Vineyard and **Richard Scoffier** of Honest Man Restaurants.

The Appetizer with **Brendan Davison** of Good Water Farms, **Carissa Waechter** of Carissa's Breads and **Jeri Woodhouse** of Taste of the North Fork

The Entrée with **Doug Corwin** of Crescent Duck Farm, **Tom Geppell** of Eight Hands Farm and **Hal Goodale** of Goodale Farms.

The Dessert with **Steve Amaral** of North Fork Chocolate Company, **Tom Stevenson** of Oysterponds Farm and **Mary Woltz** of Bees Needs.

We'll be coming back with a new crop of speakers in 2016. Watch out for our Connections calendar in early February for dates and speakers.

Didn't get a chance to join us? Volunteer Geoffrey Wells' video recap is online at www.PeconicLandTrust.org/conversations!



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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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