

Preserve Spotlights

Stoutenburgh Preserve, Southold

There is no better place for a brisk winter or spring walk than the 52-acre Paul Stoutenburgh Preserve in Greenport (formerly the Arshamomaque Pond Preserve).



The Stoutenburghs with their son Peter and Tim Caufield

Assembled by the Town of Southold using a combination of Community Preservation Funds and Open Space Capital funding, the Trust was pleased to have played a part in its protection, assisting the Town with the purchase of 24.8 acres from the Sutermeister and Neuer families in 2000. That portion of the preserve, along the southeast edge, includes over 1/3 of a mile of land along Hashamomuck Pond. *Interested in hiking the preserve? The trail can be accessed 2/10 of a mile east of the Port of Egypt Marina on Route 25, on the north side of the road.*

The preserve showcases the diversity of the East End's natural environment: tidal salt marsh meadows, pristine woodlands, vernal freshwater ponds and wetlands. Its forest lands are dominated by oaks and hickories, but also includes birches, maples, American beech and mature white pines.

Focus on Nature: Online!

An archive can be found at:

<http://focusonnature.laserfiche.com/Weblink8/splash.htm>

This diversity provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife, including egrets, herons, hawks, crabs, salamanders, deer, bats, and fox.

On November 17, 1983, in his "Focus on Nature" column that ran in the *News Review and Suffolk Times* for 50 years, Paul Stoutenburgh wrote:

"The openness of our area and the views across the farms and waterways give us something special. I never tire of the broad open spaces that Orient has to offer, the country roads and views along the North Road and Sound Avenue heading to Riverhead or the little quiet road from New Suffolk to Mattituck along the bay. Each of us has our own special place and as the seasons change we renew our acquaintance with these areas."

His column that day was a call to us all to remain vigilant and to do what we can to protect what is special about the East End. His life— along with that of his wife Barbara— was dedicated to that purpose. Indeed, we are honored to have had Paul serve on the Trust's Board of Directors for seven years. We thank the people of Southold for honoring Paul with the renaming of the Arshamomaque Pond Preserve to the Paul Stoutenburgh Preserve in 2013.

Interested in learning more? Contact Director of Conservation Programs Melanie Cirillo at MCirillo@PeconicLandTrust.org or 631.283.3195 or North Fork Stewardship Manager Denise Markut at 631.734.5630 or DMarkut@PeconicLandTrust.org.





THANK YOU FOR JOINING
US DURING OUR WINTER
HOLIDAY WEEKEND AT
BRIDGE GARDENS

Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond, East Marion

Another wonderful winter walk — a wonderful walk regardless of the weather — is the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond in East Marion. This is a beautiful walk especially for the bird enthusiast. Bring your binoculars and see if you can spot a few waterfowl, including buffleheads, horned grebes and red-breasted mergansers who settle in at this important wintering spot on the East End.

The jointly managed County and Town Preserve is part of a 118-acre collection of land that was conserved through the work and cooperation of many, including the Peconic Land Trust, Suffolk County, Southold Town, landowners and partner organizations including the Oysterponds Historical Society.

“Ruth was one of the earliest people to publicly work on behalf of preservation in Southold. She worked tirelessly.”

Who is Ruth Oliva? As our friend, and past Board member, Joe Townsend said: “Ruth was one of the earliest people to publicly work

on behalf of preservation in Southold, from the early 1970s. She worked tirelessly. While she wasn’t the most outspoken, she was the most consistent and the area around Dam Pond was one she worked very hard for.”

The preserve was renamed and dedicated to Ruth in September 2010. We thank Ruth and the many people in our community who work day in and day out to make conservation happen.

Have questions about the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond, the neighboring Edwards Farmland Conservation effort or other conservation activities in the East Marion and Orient area? Contact Senior Advisor Tim Caufield, TCaufield@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Project Manager Holly Sanford, HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org or call 631.283.3195.



Quogue Ocean & Bay, Southampton

In Quogue, with the help of the Trust, the Village, Town and County conserved about 65 acres of wetlands and shorelines on both the ocean and bay sides of Dune Road. Included in this collection of preserves is a property now called The Snail House — the Village’s oceanfront beach access complete with a snack bar and lockers. In the off-season, from Labor Day to Memorial Day, you can park and take a walk on the beautiful ocean beach.

Across the street and just a bit further east up the road are the former Rich, Steinberg and Richman properties. These bayfront wetlands offer outstanding views of Shinnecock Bay and ample opportunities to spot both migrating monarch butterflies and song birds as well as many waterbirds that make the wetlands their year-round home. You can park in a small parking area near the fence and take a walk along the Village’s boardwalk down to the bay. Don’t forget your binoculars!

Interested in seeing where conservation is in your neighborhood? Visit our online map: <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/mapsalive>



photo by Christine Kraft

Abramski Family Conserves Wildlife Habitat in East Moriches



Our thanks to Suzanne and Robert Abramski of East Moriches for protecting an important shoreline habitat through the donation of a conservation easement to the Peconic Land Trust.

The Abramskis' decision to make this gift was guided by their love of the local wildlife, especially birds, along Harts Cove and Moriches Bay in East Moriches.

The easement covers approximately nine acres of land, which includes freshwater and saltwater wetlands that contribute to the health of nearby waterways and preserves the scenic open space for the benefit of the public. It is important to note that this property could have been developed with a house in an area that faces increasing development pressure.



Located within the Town of Brookhaven, the Abramski property is within the East Moriches Historic District, a priority area of the Town where it seeks to protect the scenic and cultural character of this rural area.

"The Abramski's dedication to keeping these wetlands vital for the local wildlife, and contributing to the improvement of the local waterways can serve as an inspiration to many homeowners on Long Island," said Trust President John v.H. Halsey. "We all have the opportunity to make a difference."

Amber Waves Farm is Now the Proud Owner of the Amagansett Farmers Market and Farmland

We are so pleased to congratulate Katie Baldwin and Amanda Merrow of Amber Waves Farm on their acquisition of the Amagansett Farmers Market and farmland.



Amber Waves photos by Mallory Samson

Katie and Amanda acquired the property from conservationist Maggie de Cuevas, who worked closely with the Peconic Land Trust in her purchase of the market and farmland in 2008.

With this new transfer, Maggie donated additional easement restrictions on the farmland that now protect its affordability and accessibility for food production. This is the first time these additional restrictions, pioneered by the Trust, have been applied in the Town of East Hampton.



We can't wait to see what's in store at the farm! Beginning in 2009, Katie and Amanda were cultivating the fields of the market under a lease managed by the Trust. Since that time, they have built a successful CSA farm, based on three pillars: community, education and the Amagansett Wheat Project, bringing an important crop back to East Hampton. Their excitement and enthusiasm is contagious and we wish our former Quail Hill Farm apprentices tremendous success!

They are now in control of their destiny!

Come Explore Bridge Gardens! Membership for the 2017 Season Now Available.

36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton

A unique public garden, Peconic Land Trust's Bridge Gardens features a wide-variety of plantings including mixed borders, native grasses, roses, shrubs and trees; a community garden; demonstration vegetable garden; and a herb garden featuring culinary, medicinal, ornamental and textile and dye herbs.

A beautiful oasis to spend the day at, Bridge Gardens also serves as an outdoor classroom, demonstration garden and community resource focused on sustainable living and ecologically sound practices for the community.

For more information, www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Bridge_Gardens.html



Help Us Restore the Edwards Wetlands

We may have had a snowy late winter, but work is moving ahead at the Edwards property in Orient. A combination of farmland, uplands, and wetlands, Peconic Land Trust staff is working on an important restoration initiative that will improve the health of all three areas.



The property was negatively impacted when the existing tide gate sustained damage during Superstorm Sandy in 2014. The tide gate is critical to the

health of the wetlands as it allows water from the uplands to flow through the marshes and out to the Peconic Bay Estuary, helping to control the mosquito population. The Trust plans to reinstall the tide gate, thereby restoring the water flow into the Estuary. Funds will be needed to achieve this goal, and **your support is critical to our work on behalf of this fragile, sensitive wetlands.**

We are also continuing to seek funds toward the property's acquisition. While the development rights on the property were purchased by the Town of Southold, the remaining funds to cover the acquisition of the lands are still needed. **Please consider a gift today to help!**

Interested in learning more about the tide gate restoration and remaining acquisition balance, or to make a tax-deductible gift in support of the Edwards conservation initiative? Visit our website, PeconicLandTrust.org/Edwards and see a short film about the restoration from the point of view of the farm!

And plan to join us on June 17, when we will host a walk with North Fork Audubon member Rick Kedenburg along the wetlands with a focus on breeding birds of the North Fork.



Legislative Spotlight

Suffolk County Farmland Structures

On November 22, 2016, we joined with Suffolk County Legislators including Al Krupski and Bridget Fleming, along with representatives of the farming community, at a press conference to voice our concern over a recent court decision that restricts any agricultural structures from being constructed on farmland protected through Suffolk County's landmark farmland protection program.

The program, established in 1974, is our nation's first purchase of development rights program. Structures affected include deer fences, irrigation, storage barns, and greenhouses, among others.

The County has filed notice of an appeal, and we are hopeful that the issue will be resolved. At the press conference, Trust President John v.H. Halsey said:

"Suffolk County's landmark farmland protection program is about assuring the future of farming and agricultural production first and foremost. Of course, there are open space benefits related to working landscapes but they have never been intended to be at the expense of agriculture itself. Indeed, agricultural production by definition includes structures like barns, greenhouses, and deer fences. Such structures are essential to the business of farming and do not just benefit the farmer, but also the public, residents and visitors alike, who are afforded access to a wide variety of locally grown products including food, wine, and horticultural products. In short, agriculture is a central component of Long Island's history and community character from which we all benefit."

If you have questions, please feel free to give us a call at 631.283.3195. We hope to have positive news to share later this year.



Quail Hill Preserve and Community Supported Agriculture Farm



photo by Michael Halsband

In its 28th season, Quail Hill Farm in Amagansett, under the direction of Scott Chaskey and Layton Guenther, is a model for Community Supported Agriculture across the country — and around the globe.

A stewardship project of the Peconic Land Trust for all these years, the farm is located on the Trust's Quail Hill Preserve, donated by Deborah Ann Light in 1990. The farm has nurtured hundreds of families and aspiring farmers! We have been fortunate to be a part of so many hopes and dreams and are looking forward to welcoming summer members in early June. In his letter to interested shareholders for the 2017 season, Scott said:

"Recently a potential Apprentice, applying for the 2017 season, began her letter of intent with this, "Objective: to provide honest labor..." This seems like an admirable place to begin, and just the right kind of promise that a farmer may make to those who have chosen to support the farm.

"Years ago, attempting to define an ecological approach to agriculture, I entitled a chapter of This Common Ground: "To Provide Some Harmony."

"Harmony and honest labor: good words to repeat (and provide) as we enter our 28th season of community agriculture in Amagansett."

Want to hear more from Scott?

Take a listen as **Alec Baldwin** talks with Scott about the farm, organic produce, and conservation on the podcast: **Here's the Thing: Scott Chaskey is America's Favorite Farmer**: online at: <http://www.wnyc.org/story/scott-chaskey-americas-favorite-farmer/>.

We couldn't agree more!

The Springs School Visits the Farm: See How You Feel

And as an added treat, Quail Hill Farm was honored to host 5th graders from the Springs School last fall as part of the **See How You Feel**



project. A photography program, **See How You Feel** is designed to help young people inquire into the nature of seeing, stretch their point of view and discover the emotion of the creative experience.

The program is funded by the Anna Mirabai Lytton Foundation — started by longtime farm members Kate Rabinowitz and Rameshwar Das in memory of their daughter Anna.

The students' time at the farm is lovingly captured in this delightful short film. See it now on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/n8R14goCvSM>



Quail Hill is a magical place — consider joining us this summer as a shareholder, or at one of the Connections programs at the farm this Spring, Summer, and Fall. Information on joining the farm and our upcoming Connections programs can be found on our website, PeconicLandTrust.org/Quail_Hill_Farm.html



While the Peconic Land Trust is busy conserving working farms and natural lands, we also offer fun, family friendly **Connections** programs on conserved lands throughout the East End, including our. . .

Quail Hill Farm | Amagansett
Bridge Gardens | Bridgehampton
Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm | Southold

Join us! PeconicLandTrust.org | 631.283.3195



Long Island Grown, our Spring Lecture Series at Bridge Gardens had another sold out year!

Thank you to all our farmers, chefs, and winemakers for making this a truly spectacular series.

We love sharing your stories!

Not able to join us? This year we are making all the lectures available online!

Listen in at:

PeconicLandTrust.org/Conversations.html

Peconic Legacy Circle A Gift for Future Generations

Photo by Jacqueline Osborn

You can leave a legacy by remembering the Peconic Land Trust with a gift from your estate. Your gift will ensure that Long Island's beautiful beaches, clean water, working farms, majestic woodland, and pristine wetlands will be protected for generations to come.

Legacy gifts can take many forms and may be useful for estate planning purposes. To learn more, contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, at 631.283.3195 or AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.



"What the Trust does is so important and strikes a deep chord with me — how much it helps our beautiful place. Everybody, do what you can. Don't take the beauty for granted."

— Carol Steinberg, Esq.,
Peconic Legacy Circle Member



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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

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

Enclosed are highlights from our eNewsletters from November 2016 through March 2017.
Join our email mailing list to receive updates from the Trust each month.
An archive of our eNewsletters can be found at: PeconicLandTrust.org/News

Please help us further reduce our carbon footprint. If you change your address, or would like to receive all (or some) of your communications from the Peconic Land Trust by email, let us know!

Contact Janet Schutt, Donor Services Manager
631.283.3195 ext. 24 or JSchutt@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Follow us...

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