

# PECONIC LAND TRUST

VOL 15, Nº 1



SUMMER 2003

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION



Photos: Jeff Heatley

## Two Decades of Land Conservation in Amagansett

This year Peconic Land Trust celebrates its 20th anniversary. In enabling the conservation of more than 6,000 acres on Long Island over the years, we have acquired an appreciation of the landscape's diversity and a tremendous admiration for the people who have cared for these invaluable resources. We, therefore, share this important milestone with the landowners and Trust supporters who believe in the importance of productive agricultural lands, scenic vistas, wetland, and the woodlands that protect our deepwater recharge areas.



During this time, one area in particular, North Amagansett, has benefited from the generosity and commitment of its conservation-minded landowners. Recently, Margaret de Cuevas and Deborah Carmichael gave the Trust a total of 239 acres, the largest gift of land in Peconic Land Trust's history. Their very generous gift of two preserves—Silver Beech Preserve and High Point Preserve—brings the total to 683 acres protected in the area through private conservation efforts since 1989.

Commitment to protecting the environment and lands of North

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

## Two Decades of Land Conservation in Amagansett

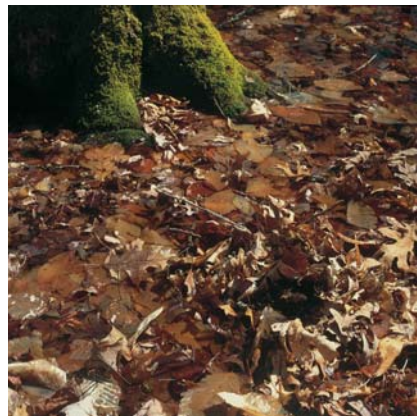
Amagansett runs deep and long in the de Cuevas family. It happened in stages, over time, first with a purchase of a few acres from the Potter family in the late 1950s; then, a few more from Pete Bistran in the early '60s, and then the 189-acre piece from Evan Frankel in the fall of 1987. Frankel knew he could count on them to preserve this land in its natural state—a hunch that has played out in just the way Mr. Frankel would have liked.

Margaret de Cuevas states, “We have known and loved this land since we were children in the 1960’s. Taking a walk through the woods was a big adventure back then, and we took many walks to visit the great big trees that grow out of the deep kettleholes in Silver Beech Preserve. The landscape of the South Fork has changed so much since then; species diversity has declined and water quality has become a problem in many areas. We wanted to help preserve what’s left.”

Over time, development has had a significant negative impact on wildlife species that are dependent on woodland habitat. The 189-acre Silver Beech Preserve contains a mature forest of American beech, white oak, red maple, sassafras and flowering dogwood. Today, there are few remaining stands of



this forest type on Long Island and this preserve is home to one of the best examples in East Hampton. Large blocks of undeveloped land such as this are extremely valuable for the continued existence of “forest interior” birds. These species, although they may have small breeding territories, require blocks of forested land much larger than their territories to maintain viable populations. The Stony Hill area is critical habitat for forest-interior, area-sensitive species such as the red-shouldered and broad-winged hawks, the ruffed grouse, the great horned and long-eared owls, the Eastern box turtle,



and three species of salamander, (spotted, marbled and red-backed). Birds include the Chuck-wills-widow, the whip-poor-will, hairy woodpecker, Acadian flycatcher, the veery, the black and white warbler, the ovenbird, the hooded warbler, the scarlet tanager, the wood thrush, the red-eyed vireo, and the Eastern wood-pewee. In the United States, these birds are declining and no longer exist in many parts of Long Island. In fact, they have been replaced by a group of species that are common to suburban landscapes. Fortunately, while this scenario has occurred in parts



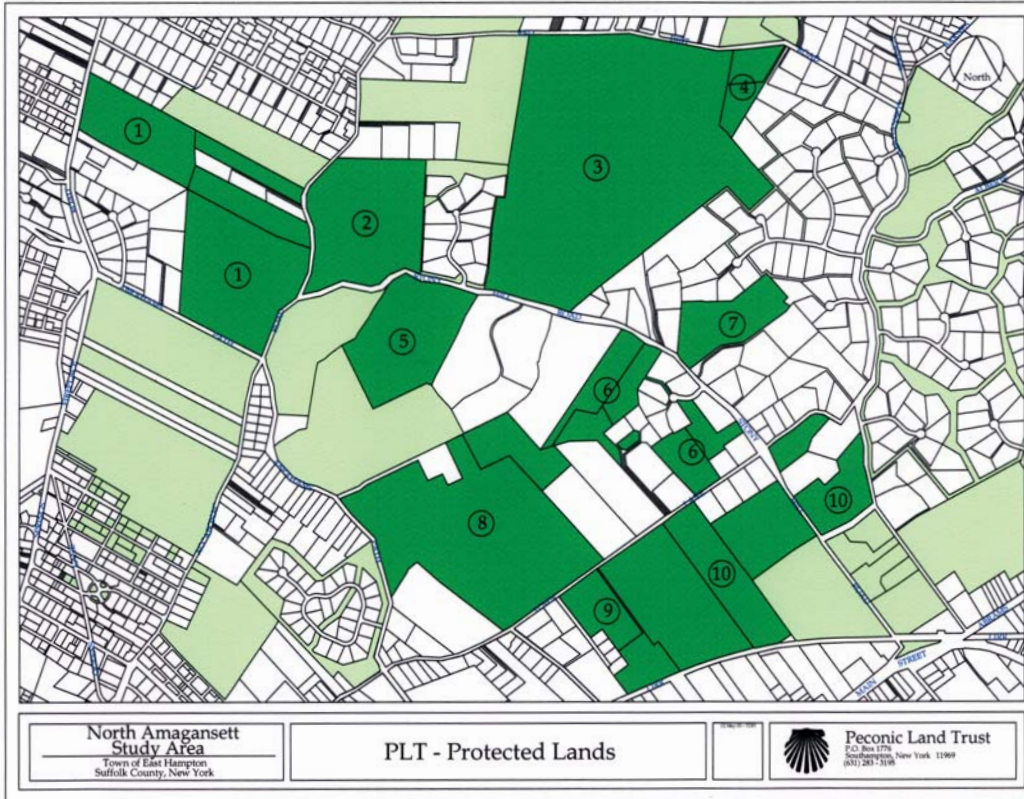
Photos: Jeff Heatley

of East Hampton, the Town still has large sections of its original, diverse habitat.

An equally important function of the Town’s woodland areas is groundwater protection. The Water Recharge Overlay District almost completely covers the woodland areas that include the deepest part of the aquifer, our sole source of drinking water. Land use in the District impacts the underlying groundwater quality, so maintaining water purity in the District is critical to our supply of pure drinking water throughout the Town of East Hampton. A living forest ecosystem filters impurities from the water on its way to the aquifer.

John v.H. Halsey, Peconic Land Trust President, comments, “For many years, the Trust has been working with the de Cuevas family to preserve important properties in North Amagansett. The dedication of this family towards conservation is truly extraordinary. Their recent donation of 239 acres of woodland in an important watershed of the Stony Hill area is the most recent demonstration of their generosity and commitment to wildlife and the environment.”





- 1 - Accabonac Preserve, 93 acres
- 2 - High Point Preserve, 50 acres
- 3 - Silver Beech Preserve, 189 acres
- 4 - Red Dirt Preserve, 11 acres
- 5 - Stony Hill Easement, 38 acres

- 6 - Potter Easement and Preserve, 36 acres and 10 acres
- 7 - Stone Easement, 19 acres
- 8 - Deborah Ann Light Preserve, 193
- 9 - Town Lane Preserve, 21 acres
- 10 - Quail Hill Preserve, 23 acres

## Historic Lore

For a brief period after East Hampton was settled in 1648, the land to the east was known as the “Eastern Plain.” Then, over the next few decades, this area became known as “Ammogonset,” “Ammigansit” and “Amigansit Woods.” The current name, Amagansett, is derived from the Montauk Indian language meaning drinking place, referring to wells that provided water. Native Americans used Amagansett as hunting grounds, not as a settlement area. Occasionally, a whale washed up on shore but, for the most part, game was killed and butchered there, and then the Native Americans returned to their home in Montauk. What is now

Amagansett’s Main Street was a path cut through the woods in 1672, and the Colonial inhabitants of East Hampton used the surrounding fields as grazing land for cattle, sheep and pigs. For over 100 years, travel to Montauk was done over the “Old Road,” which later was called Bluff Road. The first settlers of Amagansett came from the Baker, Schellinger, Conklin and Barnes families.

As early as 1700, town records refer to Amagansett as a “thriving village.” Over 100 years later, there were 30 houses and a schoolhouse located in the center of Main Street. Around this time, the first post office was established in a house

belonging to the Talmage family. The first postmaster, Dr. D. B. Van Scoy was also the hamlet’s first physician, beginning his practice in 1844. In the 19th century, the hamlet was home to many whaling captains, who built houses between voyages. Descendants of these seafaring families continue to live in Amagansett or in nearby South Shore communities. One of the area’s best known residents was a Montauk Indian, Stephen Talkhouse Pharaoh. He lived in Hither Hills, and was known for travelling long distances on foot, claiming he could get where he was going faster than by riding a horse.

In 1895, the Long Island Rail Road was extended to Amagansett. As it was with other East End communities, the railroad brought an increasing number of vacationers to the hamlet from New York City. Summer homes were built throughout the 20th century, and over time, Amagansett’s economy became more dependent on its resort appeal than on fishing and farming. Fortunately, much of the acreage in North Amagansett will remain undeveloped forever, thanks to the success of public and private conservation efforts. While cattle no longer graze in these historic fields, it’s nice to know that they can.

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## Seasonal Transformation at Downs Farm Preserve

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Downs Farm Preserve in Cutchogue was a frosty wonderland when covered with nearly two feet of snow during the near record storms this past winter. The tracks left on the snow-covered trails by cross-country skiers, deer, and the resident fox family attest to the fact that the Preserve continued to have visitors—some who came to enjoy the peace, quiet and beauty of this pristine site, and others because it is their natural habitat. If one has a vivid imagination, you might have seen the footprints of a Corchaug Indian who had ventured from nearly Fort Corchaug to hunt for a meal or to obtain drinking water from the natural spring that still flows into Down's Creek.

After winter's long, cold grip, spring inevitably arrived heralded by colorful crocuses and snowdrops, tulips and daf-

fodils and, at the Preserve, wild flowers and budding trees and greening undergrowth. As days get longer and temperatures recover, we are celebrating the season.

Following a very successful public "grand opening" of the Visitors' Center at Fort Corchaug at Downs Farm Preserve last October, the energetic Friends of Fort Corchaug Committee has continued developing its plans to meet the objectives defined in its mission statement: "to preserve and interpret the cultures and life of the Corchaug Indians as well as the agricultural heritage of the North Fork of Long Island." To assist in this effort, Kenneth Homan and Dorothy Carlson, both Cutchogue natives, recently have joined the Committee. Additional members are always welcome.

The Visitors' Center is being finished and will include exhibits and displays about the Corchaugs and colonial farming. Although a complicated process, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC is being asked to loan us some of the Indian artifacts that noted archeologist Dr. Ralph Solecki excavated from the site in the 1930s and '40s. Local school children are writing letters to be sealed in the Time Capsule that will be buried on site. The trail maps and a guide to flora and fauna will be placed on the Southold Town website, [www.southoldtown.northfork.net](http://www.southoldtown.northfork.net)

The Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday until Labor Day. Volunteers are needed to assist with staffing. Please call Peconic Land Trust's North Fork Stewardship Center at (631) 734-5630.



*Amagansett bees . . . the Trust's South Fork Stewardship Manager, Graham Hawks, introduced the staff to the culture of honey bees at a recent staff meeting. Graham has built an apiary with five hives at the Trust's Town Lane Preserve for the purpose of research that he hopes will revitalize the honey bee.*



*Early Spring view of the Trust's 40-acre Berglund Preserve, overlooking West Neck Creek and Little Sebonac Creek.*

## == Grant from Norcross Wildlife Foundation Brings GPS to Trust ==

Peconic Land Trust's Stewardship program is benefiting from a generous grant awarded by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for the purchase of a Global Positioning System (GPS) and digital camera. For the uninitiated, GPS is the only system able to show you your exact location in latitude/longitude coordinates at any time, in any weather, anywhere on the Earth. There are 24 GPS satellites in orbit at 11,000 nautical miles above the Earth that are continuously monitored by ground stations located worldwide. These satellites transmit signals that can be detected by anyone with a GPS receiver, and using the receiver, you can determine your location with remarkable precision. Simply stated, GPS is a navigation system, the contemporary version of a sextant—instead of relying on the stars, it relies on the 24 satellites.

That said, GPS has numerous applications and has dramatically changed professions such as surveying. Only a



*Pam Greene, Director of Stewardship, and South Fork Stewardship Manager Graham Hawks working with new GPS equipment at one of the Trust's preserves.*

very few large land trusts use GPS in their land management programs, but we anticipate that many more will take advantage of the technology in the future. Peconic Land Trust dedicates four full-time staff to the perpetual responsibility of the easements it holds (72 protecting 2,117 acres) and its preserves (55 totaling 1,088 acres). GPS is an essential tool in the Stewardship staff's toolbox, enabling our staff to:

- locate and establish photo points at a site for baseline documentation

- navigate back to the exact locations during subsequent monitoring, despite a constantly changing landscape
- locate and map trails for public recreational use
- locate and integrate feature characteristics of the landscape, particularly those for which future monitoring is critical, such as wetlands and endangered species and habitat
- make what is a labor intensive, time consuming job more accurate, efficient and less subjective

The new digital camera facilitates accurate photo documentation that is downloaded into computer files and merged with GPS coordinates. By the end of this year, the Trust will incorporate a Geographic Information System (GIS) in its program, allowing staff to track other attributes such as topographical, species, zoning, ownership, tax map identification, trails, building envelope, trees, wetland, and conservation opportunities.

## ==== Leave a Legacy to Future Long Islanders... =====

If you would like to extend your support of the Trust's work in protecting farmland and open space on Long Island, you may do so in a variety of ways such as naming the Trust a beneficiary of your IRA or a life insurance policy, for example. If you would like to include a provision in your will to bequeath cash, securities, or other asset property to the Trust, the following language may be used and modified as necessary:

### FOR GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE

"To the Peconic Land Trust, Incorporated, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated under the

laws of the State of New York in 1983, having as its principal address 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, New York 11968, I hereby give and devise my real property at (street address here) to Peconic Land Trust, Incorporated, of Southampton, New York."

### FOR CASH GIFTS

"I give and bequeath \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Peconic Land Trust, Inc. of Southampton, New York."

For gifts of securities

"I give and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ (number of shares) of (name here) common stock to Peconic Land Trust, Inc. of Southampton, New York."

FOR ASSET PROPERTY SUCH AS PAINTINGS, OTHER ARTWORK, ANTIQUES, ETC.

"I give and bequeath (description or name of items) to Peconic Land Trust, Inc. of Southampton, New York."

If you or your attorney would like to discuss a potential bequest, please call Rebecca A. Chapman, Vice President of Philanthropy, at (631) 283-3195. All inquiries will be kept confidential. All gifts to Peconic Land Trust are tax-deductible. Contributions of \$250 or more will be acknowledged in our Annual Report.





SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 • 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

**Celebrate the East End's rural tradition and the preservation of the East End's unique landscapes!**

The Peconic Land Trust has organized *Through Farms and Fields*, a special tour of five working farms in Sagaponack, a community with a centuries-old agricultural history. Spend the day visiting each of five sites where you'll learn about potato farming and winemaking, watch an equestrian demonstration, see a fascinating collection of antique farm equipment, visit with the owners of a greenhouse operation, and much more. Tickets for the tour are \$25/adults and \$5/children under 12. Tickets for the tour and a delicious Country Luncheon in a beautifully restored historic barn are \$125 (\$50/children under 12). Patron tickets at \$500 include two tickets for the tour and luncheon and a listing in the Patron's Luncheon invitation. In addition, all Sponsors and Patrons will be invited to a cocktail reception later this month in the gardens at Madoo Conservancy on Sagg Main Street, home of the painter and writer Robert Dash. Proceeds from *Through Farms and Fields* will benefit the Trust's conservation programs. Corporate Sponsorship packages are available. Please call (631) 283-3195 for more information.

**FOSTER FARM - Hosts: Lee and Cliff Foster, Dean Foster, Marilee Foster**

- Experience Cliff Foster's collection of antique tractors
- Learn about the potato farming business from one of the largest East End growers
- Get a behind-the-scenes look at Marilee Foster's potato chip manufacturing operation

**LIBERTY FARMS GREENHOUSE -**

**Hosts: Jeff and Kathy White**

- Get a behind-the-scenes tour of a greenhouse operation
- Learn how to style flower arrangements from Michael Grim of Bridgehampton Florist

**THE TOPPING HORSE FARM AND RIDING CLUB - Hosts: Tinka and Bud Topping; Emily and Anne Aspinall**

- Learn about the equestrian business and tour the stables
- Observe a horse whisperer and a farrier at work
- Watch an exhibition by Topping Riding Club students

**WÖLFFER ESTATE VINEYARD -**

**Host: Christian Wölffer**

- Learn about the fine art of winemaking and taste award-winning wines

- Tour the vineyard and find out what makes a good harvest
- Tour the wine press and bottling operation.

**WÖLFFER ESTATE STABLES -**

**Host: Christian Wölffer**

- Learn about the equestrian business as you tour the stables
- View a demonstration of the precise, complicated art of dressage

**PIKE'S FARM/FARMSTAND -**

**Hosts: Jennifer and Jim Pike**

- Learn about farming on a smaller scale
- Enjoy a tomato tasting and pick your favorite

**SAGG HEAD EASEMENTS -**

**Host: Ngaere Macray Zohn**

Take a rest at this site and learn more about the conservation easement that protects it and the benefits enjoyed by conservation-minded landowners. Peconic Land Trust staff will be on hand to explain various conservation tools and discuss the challenges conservation organizations face from proposed changes in Federal and State legislation.

Please reserve my tickets for *Through Farms and Fields* as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$25/adult

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$5/children under 12

\_\_\_\_\_ tour and Country Luncheon tickets @\$125

\_\_\_\_\_ tour and Country Luncheon tickets/child @\$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron @ \$500 for two tickets

(tax deductible amount is \$400)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed (please make check payable to Peconic Land Trust) or

please charge my tickets to:  MasterCard  VISA Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature required for charge \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Peconic Land Trust, PO Box 1776, Southampton, NY 11969 or fax to (631) 283-0235.**

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## Quail Hill Farm News

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This year, as the Trust celebrates its 20th Anniversary, Quail Hill Farm celebrates its 14th year of organic growing on land donated by Deborah Ann Light. Last winter, if we were searching for a new title for our farm, we might have selected “The Ponds at Quail Hill.” The pepper beds, the raspberry patch in the valley, and the apple orchard were all under the cover of a sheet of ice. When the frozen ponds melted, as well as the surrounding mounds of snow, the soil was saturated and I could not help but recall those many months in the middle of last year’s growing season when we had no water—when we had to supply it. Now the roots of perennial plants are being nourished with ample winter water and spring rains.



*Join Quail Hill Farm and enjoy organic produce and flowers from June through October. Family of 4 membership is \$650; single membership is \$330. Call Laura Fisher for more information, (631) 283-3195.*

We are very happy to say that Matt Celona is back for another year, as Field Manager, and we also appreciate all of the support given by Tina Celona. Apprentices are: Rachel Daley, Susan L. Kapatoes, Kerry A. Loeffler, and Joshua E. May. Nicole D. Vasak will be at the North Fork Stewardship Center. Nat Graeser continues to tend and mend our machinery, which now ranges from a donated golf cart (the vehicle of choice on the farm), to a 1948 Ford 8N, a 1952 Masey-Harris, a Case 395, a Case 485, to a 1991 Case 265 cultivating tractor, to a few well-traveled bicycles.

We’ve added some new varieties for the coming year, and we hope to try some sweet potatoes.

We’re planting more okra, fewer hot peppers, more colored peppers, more German White garlic, and some new tomatoes (we are thinking ahead to the annual Tomato Taste Off). Day by day, as the period of light continues to advance, our chickens, on strike throughout the shorter days of winter, actually wake up and lay some eggs!

I now feel the comfort of getting to know a place, fourteen years later, of being able to listen to the interdependent voice of grass, blackbird, sycamore branch, and cedar. Each fistful of soil on this farm is alive with a billion micro creatures, part of the eternal tale of renewal and decay. As the ice of late

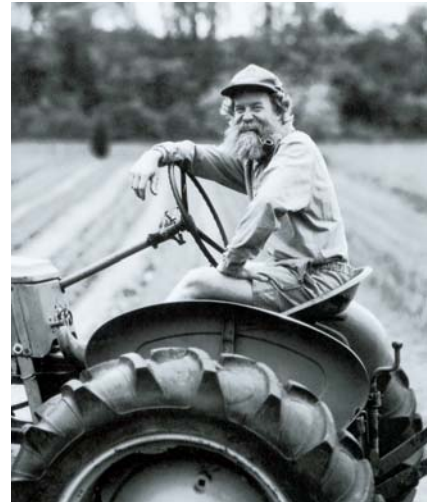


Photo: Tony Lattari

February melted, streaming down into that soil, we literally walked upon a river of renewal. Soil carefully tended is able to store nutrients to feed the plants we cultivate to become our food. In an unstable time we choose, on this farm, to build good soil which improves the nutrient flow and strengthens the interdependence of the whole community. The reach of my words is to end with timely language taken from the Earth Charter: “Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which we all are a part.”

- Scott Chaskey,  
Quail Hill Preserve Manager

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## North Fork Stewardship Center Wish List

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Donations of the following items would be greatly appreciated by the Trust’s stewardship staff. Contact Denise Markut at (631) 734-5630 if you are able to make a donation.

The following items are needed for our 1050 JD tractor:

- a 5-6’ disc

- Grain drill/seeder
- small plow or rotovator
- grading blade

For building projects (kiosks, benches, trail markers), we need woodworking tools such as:

- table saw
- extension ladders

- router
- reciprocating saw
- jig saw
- hand tools

(screw drivers, hammers, chisels)

Also needed are a small pick-up truck in very good running condition and a small 8-10’ trailer

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## 2002 Conservation Accomplishments

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### **TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

#### **Town of East Hampton Acquisition - Benson Point Realty**

This 22.4-acre waterfront parcel was the former site of a sand mining operation and is situated adjacent to almost 1,500 acres of Town/County/State preserved parcels. The Town is interested in exploring the possible restoration of the site.

#### **Donnelly Easement**

Peconic Land Trust purchased a conservation easement on a 1-acre parcel owned by East Dune Group, LLC. The bargain sale purchase was made possible through the generous donations of neighbors and members of the Maidstone Club. A home could have been built on the site, but this easement extinguishes that development right. The Maidstone Club, at a simultaneous closing, then purchased the underlying fee title to the property.

#### **Town of East Hampton Acquisition - Foster**

In July, the Trust facilitated the Town's bargain sale purchase of 14.07 acres on Townline Road that lie within the Town's target area for water quality protection.

#### **Town of East Hampton/Village of East Hampton - Middlefield Development LLC**

Formerly the Mark R. Buick dealership, this .7-acre site in the Village was acquired by the Peconic Land Trust from Middlefield Development LLC using funds from an anonymous conservation lender. The land, adjacent to Village-owned parkland, was later purchased by the Village and the Town of East Hampton, in part with Community Preservation Funds.

#### **Town of East Hampton Acquisition - Richards**

The Trust assisted the Town of East Hampton in acquiring over 14 acres in Springs. Part of a 16-acre parcel, the project includes a 3-lot subdivision on just over two acres, with the remaining 14.3 acres preserved.

#### **Town of East Hampton Acquisition - Springs Nursery**

The Trust assisted the Town's purchase of 42 acres of nursery land on Three Mile Harbor Road.

The bargain sale purchase enabled the acquisition and has reduced density in the Springs community, where the school district is struggling to meet the demands of a growing year-round population. The Town has formed a committee of community members who will work together to determine the future use of the site.

#### **Tabasso Easement**

Theodore Tabasso and Mea Townsend donated a conservation easement on their 3.3-acre property located in the Hook Mill Historic District in the Village of East Hampton. This property consists of an Open Area comprising 1.6858 acres and a Development Area comprising 1.5327 acres. The easement reduces the density from three potential building lots down to the existing residence.

#### **Wilson Easement**

Marilyn B. Wilson donated a conservation easement to the Trust on a 22.7-acre parcel of woodland in the Northwest Woods section of East Hampton that extinguished all 6 development rights. Two trails traverse the property and the easement allows for pedestrian (non-motorized) use of the trails by the public. The site contains woodland of white pine and oak with an understory of sassafras, dogwood, high and low bush blueberry, mountain laurel, and huckleberry. Wildflowers include trailing arbutus, wintergreen, pink lady slipper, yellow star grass, blue-eyed grass, wild sarsaparilla, wild geranium, and Canada mayflower.

### **TOWN OF RIVERHEAD**

#### **Suffolk County/Town of Riverhead PDR - Zilnicki/Stark**

In a bargain sale transaction, the Town of Riverhead and Suffolk County

purchased the development rights on 34 acres in active agricultural production. The site is part of a large block of protected farmland on the western side of Roanoke Avenue in Riverhead.

#### **Granttham/Reeve Preserve**

Dr. Caryl Granttham of Riverhead named the Peconic Land Trust to be the recipient of 20 acres on Long Island Sound with a house as a testamentary gift. The property is heavily wooded and will remain in its natural state, providing habitat for wildlife forever.

### **TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND**

#### **Town of Shelter Island/Suffolk County PDR - Ryan Horse Farm**

Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Ryan purchased an 83-acre potato farm on Shelter Island in 1964, turning the majority of the property into an equestrian center in 1987. In 2000, the Ryan family agreed to sell 76 of these acres to a group who planned to continue operating the equestrian center. As part of that agreement, the family contracted to sell the development rights on 63 acres to Suffolk County and the Town of Shelter Island. The remainder of the property will be subdivided into 6 building lots on Midway Road that range in size from 1 to 1.5 acres, a 1-acre parcel on Smith Street that will be purchased by Peconic Land Trust and a 4-acre parcel on Bowditch Road that can be further subdivided into 4 building lots.

### **TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON**

#### **Town of Southampton/Suffolk County PDR - Gerbeth**

The Trust facilitated a Town and County partnership protecting 7 acres that had been subdivided with approval for three building lots. The land was considered a Community Preservation Fund priority by Southampton Town due to its agricultural soil (Bridgehampton Silt Loam) and its proximity to acreage already protected by Suffolk County. After the develop-



ment rights were purchased from John Gerbeth, Thomas E. Halsey purchased the underlying fee title.

**Town of Southampton/Village of Southampton PDR - Jagger**

The Trust facilitated the purchase of development rights on 7.49 acres of fertile agricultural soil by the Town of Southampton and the Village of Southampton using funds from the Community Preservation Fund. The longtime strawberry field is one of the very last parcels of undeveloped land on County Road 39. The sale of development rights reduced the value of the acreage, enabling Hank Kraszewski, who had leased the land for 20 years, to purchase it and continue farming there.

**Town of Southampton Acquisition - Peconic River Properties**

The Trust assisted the Town of Southampton in acquiring a small, but significant parcel along the Route 24 traffic circle in Riverhead. The one-acre parcel fronts other NYS Scenic and Wild River property, and will be protected as green space for the town.

**Sagg Head Easements**

The Trust received a conservation easement on 1.8 acres on Sagg Road, Sagaponack. This parcel joins over 7 acres previously donated by Ngaere Macray Zohn and protected by the Trust. The easement creates a substantial open space area with prime soils that is currently in active agricultural production.

**Salvatore Easement**

Max and Diane Salvatore donated a conservation easement on 4 wooded acres on Newtown Road in Hampton Bays. The easement protects significant wildlife habitat and maintains the rural quality of the area. The property is visible from Shinnecock Canal as well as Newtown Road.

**Town of Southampton/Village of Quogue Acquisition - Slevin**

This bargain sale acquisition of 1+ acres protects wildlife habitat, helps to

preserve the Village character and provides passive recreational opportunities to local residents.

**Town of Southampton PDR - Smith**

The Trust facilitated the sale of development rights to Southampton Town on over 20 acres in Bridgehampton. Known as the Hayground Farm, the parcel is located on Montauk Highway and New Light Lane and is home to a large farm stand. This project reduced the density of the parcel to a maximum of 7 building lots with the remaining acreage currently farmed.

**Town of Southampton Acquisition - Tarone**

The Trust facilitated the purchase of acreage on Cobb Hill Road and Montauk Highway in Water Mill. Funded by town and community residents, the parcel was the site of Water Mill's original little league field. The parcel serves as a gateway to the community and will be developed as a green space for the town.

**Town of Southampton/Suffolk County PDR - Wesnofske**

This bargain sale acquisition of prime agricultural soils, mostly Bridgehampton Loam, protected 10 acres of land on Scuttlehole Road and Brick Kiln Road in Bridgehampton. The Wesnofske family has protected all the land it owns through the sale of development rights.

**TOWN OF SOUTHOLD**

**Town of Southold PDR - Aliano**

In a public and private partnership, the Trust protected over 12 acres of farmland on Route 48 in Southold. The Trust facilitated the sale of the development rights to Southold Town, with the fee title sold to a conservation buyer. The property had previously been subdivided into six residential lots. The property will now be leased to a farmer and go into active agricultural use.

**Town of Southold PDR - Cullinane**

The Trust facilitated the sale of devel-

opment rights to the Town of Southold on over 34 acres in Orient. Located on the Main Road and Narrow River Road, the parcel consists of farmland, meadow and wetland and is adjacent to a large conservation area protected by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Town of Southold Acquisition - McGunnigle**

The Trust assisted the Town of Southold in acquiring 25 woodland acres in Mattituck. Located west of Mattituck Creek, the wooded parcel provides significant wildlife habitat.

**Merlot LLC Easement**

The Merlot LLC donated a conservation easement on its 37.8-acre property located on the Main Road in Peconic. The property contains farmland with prime agricultural soils. This easement reduces the density to no more than four single-family residences and a Winery Complex on 9.5 acres and retains over 28 acres of open space and farmland.

**Suffolk County PDR - Pirerra**

The Trust assisted Suffolk County in purchasing 37.3 acres of open space and woodland on County Road 48 in Mattituck. Acquisition funding came from the County's Greenways Fund for active parkland. Often the site of the Mattituck Strawberry Festival in the past, the County intends to use the acreage for active parkland.

**Suffolk County PDR - Pollio**

The Trust facilitated the purchase of development rights by Suffolk County of over 19 farmland acres in Mattituck. The parcel is located on Route 48 adjacent to an active farm. While not currently farmed, the sale of development rights ensures that the acreage will remain for agricultural use.

**Town of Southold PDR - Schreiber**

The Trust assisted with the design and facilitation of a conservation plan for Robert Schreiber that permanently pro-

*continued on page 10 »*

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## In Memoriam

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*Former Trust Board Member and renowned naturalist Paul Stoutenburgh remembers two East Enders whose generosity has preserved precious open space and habitat on the North Fork.*

### RICHARD N. REEVE

Richard N. Reeve was dedicated to the concept of farming and worked his whole life on his farm that ran from Sound Avenue to the Long Island Sound. He was particularly proud of the rugged, wooded Sound frontage at the north end of the farm. I have walked those rugged cliffs with Richard and it's hard to believe you are on Long Island. There we found polypody ferns that drape the great glacier boulders. The trees and shrubbery are windblown from the fierce winter winds. He and his wife Avis worked together as a team and often toyed with the idea of some day preserving the farm and that unique Sound frontage. They had seen the ticky-tack of buildings with blacktop and manufactured lawns that were slowly working their way into the area. They had to do something so they

decided to investigate the Peconic Land Trust. It didn't take them long before they tied up forever this unique parcel of land that will be there for all to enjoy. Whether on a nature walk or strolling the beaches below, you have Richard Reeve and his wife Avis to thank for this unique area.

### JOYCE TERRY

Joyce Terry and her husband Orville made a unique pair—Orville, a professor in Marine Science at SUNY Stony Brook, and Joyce a devoted wife who had a special understanding of dogs. She often walked with her dogs the half-mile of their farm that ran from the Main Road to the Long Island Sound. Windblown—I never knew her to wear a hat and always ready for a walk. The farm had an old irrigation pond that was about half way up the farm and was overgrown with brambles and bushes, and surrounded by a clump of pines. Joyce would often go there to enjoy the solitude. She introduced water lilies to her pond. Each year, on our Christmas Bird Count, I'd stop in at the farm and

ask permission to go up into the pines in hopes of adding a long-eared owl or a barn owl to our Christmas list. She was a very sensitive person who kept mostly to herself, yet she could be very friendly. One time, she took me up to the little cottage she and Orville had built right on the cliffs overlooking the Sound. It was their retreat and it had a special place in their lives. Even before Orville died, they were always searching for a way of preserving their precious farm. Then when Orville did die, Joyce looked to the Peconic Land Trust and the rest is history. So we have Joyce Terry to thank that there will always be a farm and a sound front that will be kept forever in memory of Joyce and Orville.

*Ed. Note: Richard N. and Avis Reeve donated a 20-acre site, the Reeve Preserve, overlooking Long Island Sound that includes meadow and woodland in 2000. Joyce Terry donated 9 acres, the Orville Terry Farm Preserve, to the Peconic Land Trust in 1987.*

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### 2002 Conservation Accomplishments

*« continued from page 9*

nects 32+ acres of prime farmland in Southold Town's targeted farmland corridor along Oregon Road. Mr. Schreiber owns an approximately 47-acre parcel that stretches from Oregon Road to the Long Island Sound in Mattituck. The Town of Southold purchased the development rights on 32 acres and Mr. Schreiber maintains his 4-acre homestead, as well as a 9-acre development area of "unfarmed" land along the Sound.

### Suffolk County PDR - Wickham

Working with Suffolk County and a longtime farming family, the Trust facilitated the sale of development rights to the County of over 16 acres in Cutchogue. The parcel is located on New Suffolk Avenue and Wickham Creek and adds to significant acreage previously protected by the Wickham family in the area.

### NASSAU COUNTY

#### Rolu LLC Easement

Rolu LLC donated a conservation easement on over 100 acres in the Village of Old Westbury in Nassau County. The easement includes a 25-acre central conservation area with development limited to agricultural structures. The remaining acreage limits residential development to eight 1.5 acre lots, retaining 67 acres of open space. The property is partially wooded and includes a significant number of old-growth and rare tree specimens. In addition, the easement preserves important wildlife habitat and scenic vistas.



## Peconic Land Trust Walks and Talks 2003

*A series of educational programs highlighting special places...*

**Native Long Island: The History of Ft. Corchaug and Downs Farm Preserve** - Join us for a morning hike presented in conjunction with the Downs Farm Management Committee. Start at the newly opened Visitor's Center for an introduction to the National Historic Landmark and enjoy a short hike through Ft. Corchaug and Downs Farm Preserve. Learn about Native American life on Eastern Long Island with an interactive presentation and display by the Wilderness Traveling Museum.  
**Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$5.00 (under 12, free)**

**"Winds Way," A Study in Historic Preservation** - Hosts Nancy Gilbert and Richard Wines will discuss their historic preservation work and how they worked with the Trust to protect their land from development forever. The tour will include visits to their historic barn and mid-19th century school-



Photo: Marsha Kenny

house, saved from demolition, and an apple press demonstration. In addition to the tour of the grounds, a house tour and tea will be presented in conjunction with the Riverhead Landmarks Preservation Commission at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, September 20, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$10.00 - Tour of Schoolhouse and Gardens**  
**\$30.00 - Tour of Schoolhouse, Gardens, House Tour and Tea**  
*(please, no children)*

**Family Day at Quail Hill Farm** - Quail Hill Preserve Manager Scott Chaskey, Farm Manager Matt Celona, and Tina Celona will provide an introduction to PLT's organic community farm, its history and conservation. Activities for children will include a hayride and a visit to the chicken coop. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Saturday, October 11, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$10.00 per family of four**

**Big Blue Stem and Blue Cranes: The Flora and Fauna of Dam Pond** - Join noted birder and master naturalist Mary Laura Lamont on a morning hike to experience the unique environment of Dam Pond in East Marion. Learn about native grasses, marine and bird life, as well as the conservation process that has protected 140 acres forever. Comfortable shoes and binoculars are suggested.

**Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$10.00 (under 12, free)**



*Family Day 2002 at Quail Hill*

Tours may be purchased individually or as a series. All programs are rain or shine. For more information or to reserve your place in one or all of these programs, call Vanessa Craigo, Communications Manager, at (631) 283-3195. In some cases the number of people is limited.

## Special Events

Special events include:

- **Native Plant Seminar** - presented by Trimble's of Corchaug Nursery
- **Agriculture on the North Fork, Past and Present** - a talk with Cutchogue farmer Tom Wickham
- **Children's Workshop: Duck Decoy Carving** - Jack and Michael Coombs, noted local decoy carvers
- **Display and lecture on old farm tools and implements**

- **Guided tour of the wooded trails with a renowned naturalist**
- **Program on the life of the Corchaug Indians** - including face painting and cooking an Indian meal over a campfire

The Center officially opened on Saturday, May 24. It will be staffed from 10 am to 4 p.m. every Saturday until

Labor Day. Volunteers are needed to assist with staffing. The woodland trails are open daily to the public from dawn to dusk. Looking for a new activity to get you moving? Join the Friends of Fort Corchaug for a healthy workout that won't seem like one! For inspiration, call Peconic Land Trust's North Fork Stewardship Center at (631) 734-5630.



## Other Ways to Support Land Conservation

### MATCHING GIFTS:

Many companies have matching gifts programs; some allow matches for others in addition to employees-spouses, retired employees, spouses of retired employees, widows or widowers of retired employees, and non-employee directors of the company. Please check with your employee benefits office. If your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift to the Trust can be doubled or tripled.

### SCALLOP SHELL MEMORIAL GIFTS:

A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to those who appreciated the beauty of Long Island. To make your gift, send your check, along with the name of the person being memorialized, to the Trust. Please indicate the name and address of a family member or friend of the deceased to whom we can send an acknowledgment of your charitable gift.

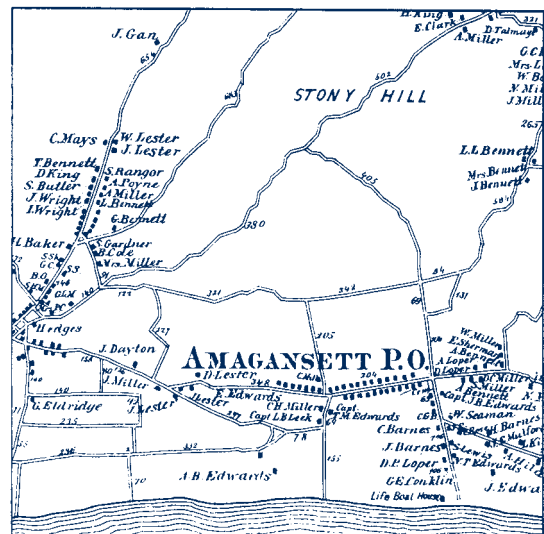
### SPECIAL OCCASION GIFTS:

Commemorate an anniversary, birthday, wedding or other special occasion with a gift to conservation. The Trust will send a card in your name to whomever you designate (just provide us with a mailing address!).

You may make a charitable gift to the Trust on our secure website [www.peconiclandtrust.org](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org).



*The Peconic tent will soon rise again... the annual event for Trust supporters and volunteers will take place on June 14.*





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## Noteworthy Election Day 2002

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Voter support for open space was particularly strong on November 5, 2002, when 95 of 112 measures—or 85 percent—were approved, generating \$2.9 billion for open space acquisition, restoration and protection. That passage rate was an increase from the 75 percent seen on Election Day 2001.

In all ballot measures before voters in 2002, 74 percent were approved in 2002, up from a 70 percent approval rate in 2001. The findings were released January 31 in LandVote 2002, a report by the Land Trust Alliance and the Trust for Public Land. In addition, according to LandVote 2002, 141 of 189 parks and open space ballot measures passed in 2002, generating more than \$10 billion in new funding for 28 states, including about \$5.7 billion for land acquisition, preservation and protection.

“Voters in a bipartisan manner have again voiced their strong support for

protection of natural lands, clean water, and safe communities,” said LTA President, Rand Wentworth. “They understand that we are losing 2 million acres each year, and they have shown their concern that the lands we protect today will affect the American landscape for all time.”

Trust for Public Land President Will Rogers concurred. “2002 was another year of very strong voter support for open space protection across the country. “At a time when the threshold for government spending and borrowing is rising, Americans continue to demonstrate that they will pay to protect the places that are special to them.”

LandVote 2002 tabulates funding from local and state conservation ballot measures in two ways: 1) the total funding contained in these measures for any and all purposes, including land acquisition, restoration, and protection; and

2) funding contained in successful measures that is specifically for land acquisition, restoration, and protection. Many ballot measures contain funding for projects other than land protection. Therefore, both sets of figures document the substantial voter support for conservation. Most of the measures tabulated by LandVote 2002 are bond measures that authorize the use of bonded indebtedness (general obligation bonds) to raise government revenue. Other measures tabulated by LandVote 2002 include property taxes and sales taxes, calculated over the life of the measure. Most bonds have a life of 20 or 30 years, so when a bond measure contains no sunset provision, Land Vote 2002 estimates its revenue total based on a 20-year duration.

LandVote 2002 is an annual publication of LTA and TPL. For more information, visit [www.landvote.org](http://www.landvote.org)





**PECONIC LAND TRUST**  
 PO Box 1776  
 Southampton, NY 11969



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**Mission Statement**



The Peconic Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of farmland and open space on Long Island. To this end, the Trust acquires and manages land as well as easements for conservation purposes. In addition, the Trust assists farmers and other landowners and municipalities in the identification and implementation of alternatives to full-yield development.



**Peconic Land Trust, Inc.**  
 296 Hampton Road, PO Box 1776  
 Southampton, New York 11969  
 (631) 283-3195  
[www.peconiclandtrust.org](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org)

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 William T. Hutton, Esq.  
 Susan Tuths, Esq.

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 Marsha Kenny, Editor  
 Searles Graphics, Printing