

PECONIC LAND TRUST



CONSERVING LONG ISLAND'S WORKING FARMS, NATURAL LANDS, AND HERITAGE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

ISSUE NO. 12

The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

SUMMER 2022

Conservation News

Last Large Parcel Conserved Along Deep Hole Creek

15 Acres of Waterfront Farmland in Southold Town to be forever protected.



Photo Credit: Rita Rooney

The North Fork community and Trust supporters across Long Island came together to conserve the last large open space parcel on Deep Hole Creek! With the support of the community and generous participation from the Town of Southold and the Koehler family (the

seller), the Trust purchased 15 acres at 4180 New Suffolk Avenue in Mattituck.

Just a year ago, we were full steam ahead on fundraising for this waterfront parcel of land – once farmed by a local family – that we hoped to protect and save from subdivision. On June 28, we became the interim owner of the property. The parcel was protected in perpetuity at the closing table when the Town of Southold purchased the development rights from the seller, the Koehler family.

In the weeks and months ahead, the Trust's stewardship team will determine how best to monitor and manage the land during our interim ownership, ensuring the health of the water, soil, flora and fauna. Eventually we will list this property for sale so that a qualified farmer or conservation buyer can maintain or potentially cultivate the land!

Thank you!

We are so grateful for your continued support and for the amazing progress we continue to make, together.

To learn more about this project, contact Holly Sanford, Senior Project Manager, HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org and Alison Delaney, Development Officer, ADelaney@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Community Support Protects Wading River Farmland in Perpetuity



Due to the huge outpouring of support this April, we were able to reach our goal of \$305,000 in community support and ensure we'll be able to protect 38 acres in Wading River for agriculture. In addition to this individual support, \$7,591,758 were raised through New York State grants and bargain sales due to the efforts of Julie Wesnofske, the Trust's Senior Project Manager.

Thank you!



Farmer John Condzella picking strawberries for Trust supporter Dave Smith.

"I couldn't be prouder to have been part of this community fundraising effort," said Amanda Abraham, Director of Development. "I was honored to meet many members of the Condzella family, who are so passionate about their work and their farming heritage. From potatoes to

bees, asparagus to strawberries, hops to cover crops... each generation has made their own mark on the operation."

To learn more about the Wading River Farmland Initiative, please contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org and Julie Wesnofske, Senior Project Manager, JWesnofske@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Connections



June 4, 2022

PECONIC

Agricultural Center
at Charnews Farm

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful day in celebration of you and your dedication to land conservation!



Land Protected on Jones Creek



On April 27th, the Trust purchased 2.7 acres on Jones Creek in partnership with the Town of East Hampton. Located where Jones Creek flows into Georgica Pond, the property sits within the 4,000-acre Georgica Pond Watershed.

Protecting this land will aid in improving the health of the pond and the surrounding natural habitat by eliminating future development and ensuring a natural buffer that will reduce the flow of contaminants into the pond. Nitrogen and phosphorus are major contributors to the harmful algal blooms that have stressed many of our local ponds and bays, including Georgica Pond.

At a public hearing in February, the Trust's Kim Quarty said: "We have been focusing a lot of effort around Georgica Pond in the last few years. Every parcel

counts. The pond is in distress right now with high nutrient levels including nitrogen. We need to reduce nitrogen inputs by at least 60 percent to get to a quality that is considered stable." Maintaining this parcel as undeveloped will help in these efforts.

The Trust and the Town contributed equally to the purchase of the property, acquired from Ana Meier for \$8.5 million. The Town used funds from its Community Preservation Fund (CPF). Funds for the Trust's portion of the acquisition were provided by Andrew Davis, Trustee of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund.

"Finding solutions to the water quality challenges that are facing many of our East End ponds and bays is of utmost importance to us. We are excited to partner with the Trust in this endeavor," said Andrew Davis, Trustee of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund.

"The Town of East Hampton is pleased to be a partner in the preservation of this important pondfront property. The benefits to the native ecosystem, Georgica Pond water quality, and to public enjoyment of this natural setting will accrue for years to come," said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc.

"Our sincere thanks go out to Ana Meier for choosing a conservation outcome for this land. Ana has ensured that this property will be permanently protected which will, in turn, contribute to the ongoing efforts to improve the water quality of Georgica Pond. We are very grateful to our public and private partners for making this acquisition possible," said John v.H. Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust.

Contact Kim Quarty, Director of Conservation Planning, KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Julie Wesnofske, Senior Project Manager, JWesnofske@PeconicLandTrust.org, for more information about this project and conservation along Georgica Pond.

Protecting Wetlands along the Spy Coast

Good news for the bays and harbors around Strongs Neck and the Long Island Sound!

On May 31st the Trust purchased a 1.3-acre parcel, located on Conscience Bay in Setauket. Conservation of this property will benefit surface water quality and wetlands in this embayment of Long Island Sound, an Estuary of National Significance.

The purchased parcel borders New York State DEC-owned and protected land, adding to an existing assemblage of parcels along Little Bay and Conscience Bay. To achieve this conservation outcome the Trust worked with the Kozikowski family since 2020.

DEC Regional Director Cathy Haas said, "We thank the Peconic Land Trust for their work to protect this property and their purchasing of additional properties in this area that will help strengthen the resiliency of



the Setauket area from coastal storms and other climate impacts by protecting important salt marsh and mud flats. Its location within the area travelled by members of the Revolutionary War-era Culper Spy Ring adds a historical significance to this property as well. DEC looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with Peconic Land Trust on land preservation efforts across Long Island."

To learn more about this project, contact Kim Quarty, Director of Conservation Planning, KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Preserving the Heningburgs Happy Place

What I love most about the East End is the natural beauty, the variety of plants and farming, as well as experiencing a place with my wife and daughter that I have been coming to since 1967. It's our happy place, where we can relax, slow down, and really connect.

Donating to the Peconic Land Trust enables us to do something positive for the environment where we have a home. I want to preserve the East End's beauty for my family who will use our house long after I am gone. The Trust is doing work today that will outlast all of us.



The Heningburg family at their favorite restaurant in Southampton.

I am amazed year after year at the amazing and creative ways in which the Trust is maintaining green space, which preserves the beauty that makes the East End so special. I am particularly excited and proud of the work that the Trust is doing to assist the Shinnecock people.

For me, conservation means preserving our world and acknowledging the impact of climate change, and that we must take material steps to combat it. In terms of the East End, it means preventing overdevelopment, and preserving green spaces and farmland that make this such a special place. We support the Trust's efforts to preserve the East End because of their long track record with being creative and getting results.

We're environmental stewards passing through time, and it's our obligation to do a responsible job while we have that leadership role. We owe that to the generations that will follow us. The Peconic Land Trust enables us to support the environment and the beauty of the East End, our "Happy Place."

We are thankful to Michael Heningburg for sharing his family's story with us. Their support of the annual fund allow us to continue to protect natural resources on the East End.

To learn more about how to support the annual fund, contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.



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Double or even triple your support - reach out to your employer to see if your business has a matching gift program. For more information, contact Olivia Waterhouse at OWaterhouse@PeconicLandTrust.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PECONIC LAND TRUST!

A Secret Garden Amid Farm Fields...

Tucked away in the Quail Hill Farm fields is a Chinese medicinal herb garden. Started in 2003, this little-known project has grown throughout the years from a few transplants to over 30 different species of medicinal herbs.

Walking through the garden, you are transported to another place. The plants form shapes not commonly seen in the field. The *Platycodon grandiflorus*, aptly known as balloon flower, forms balloons before the flower bursts forward.

The herbs found in the garden are used by practitioners of East Asian herbal medicine. Practitioners can be found throughout the world, but most of the herbs still come from China. The herbs are under threat from loss of habitat, environmental pollution, climate change, and poaching of wild plants. Quail Hill Farm became part of a research project to see how these plants could grow throughout New York.

The project was started by Jean Gilette of High Falls Garden in the Hudson Valley. Jean worked with Scott Chaskey, former Director of Quail Hill Farm, to bring plants from High Falls Garden to Amagansett. Those original plants, including *Aster tartaricus*, a Chinese mint, and bitter melon, still thrive today in a half-acre section of the farm.

Since perennial crops can take many years to mature, these plants are currently used for research and seed harvesting. Already, the plants being grown at Quail Hill Farm have shown differences from those grown in the Hudson Valley. The Sichuan pepper plant took 11 years to produce peppercorns at High Falls Garden, but only 3 years here!

A Note from Layton: Summer at the Farm

At our latitude here in Amagansett (40.97°N, but who's counting?) we get roughly 15 hours of daylight on the summer solstice, meaning ample, nearly non-stop photosynthesis for our leafy friends, crops and weeds alike! Walking around the farm, you'll notice that cover crops and grasses start to shift their energy from vegetative (or apical) growth and towards setting their seed. The Solstice is a shift in the season, beginning of flowers and fruiting crops and potatoes, and we begin our long, slow slide towards the end of our growing season.

The Solstice also brings about the beginning of bulk-harvest season, starting with one of our favorites: garlic scapes! Scapes are the flowering stem that emerge from hardneck garlic stalks. If left to their own devices, scapes will actually produce a lily-like "flower," rife with bulbils that can be eaten or planted as miniature

Scott retired as Quail Hill Farm's Director in 2019 and now enjoys more time to focus on the garden. In the past three years several additional plants have been added including, but not limited to, *Albizia julibrissin* (mimosa), *Astragalus*, *Bupleurum*, *Forsythia suspensa*, and *Saposhnikovia divaricata*. He is amazed by how well they thrive in the Amagansett soil.



Platycodon grandiflorus

In the future the garden will provide an additional revenue stream for Quail Hill Farm. Once the plants mature, they can be harvested for their medicinal properties.



Sichuan pepper plant

The medicinal part of most of the plants is the root which needs several years to develop before being harvested without damaging the plant.

Want to visit the garden? Join us for a tour on Saturday, September 17th. Email Events@PeconicLandTrust.org to register. To learn more about Chinese medicinal herb plants, check out the Chinese Medicinal Herb Farm www.chinesemedicinalherbfarm.com.



Garlic Scapes

garlic. However, these false flowers also steal caloric energy away from that which we're primarily seeking in a garlic crop: the bulb. Anecdotally, removing the scapes can improve yields by up to 80%.

For us, the solstice marks a high point in our season where we're humming along and all of our major field production tasks are online: irrigating, seeding, transplanting, weeding, tractor cultivation, harvesting and field crop care are all underway. Our 2022 crew has done a stellar job of staying on top of everything!

Would you like to become a Quail Hill Farm CSA member? Contact Layton Guenther, Farm Director at LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org.

From Lawn to Meadow at Bridge Gardens



Removing a portion - or all - of your cultivated lawn serves several purposes. Most importantly, a biodiverse landscape supports insects and wildlife better than a monoculture of

manicured grass. Plants in a meadow support many kinds of beneficial insects, including pollinating bees and wasps, butterflies, lady bugs, caterpillars and more. Many of these insects feed our birds and wildlife. A well-planted meadow offers a density of host plants for butterflies. Planting densely offers places for them to lay eggs that hatch as caterpillars that feed on these plants until they metamorphose into butterflies.

Removing lawn to create a meadow can be accomplished in several ways. Here at Bridge Gardens, we started in March and used the “smother technique” by laying down clean corrugated cardboard, not touched by ink, staples, or tape. We secured the cardboard with bricks and then covered with mulch and allowed it to decompose over several months this spring. You can also use a thick layer of newspaper in a similar fashion and let it decompose. A speedier method is to cut out your lawn area. September is a great time to begin this project, or you can wait for the early spring as we did.

Once the lawn area is eliminated, it's time to plant your meadow.

Hundreds of Native Plants Find New Home at the Wolf Preserve in Southold

On a beautiful Spring day, Trust staff and friends gathered at the Wolf Preserve in Southold. Together, we placed over 600 native plants throughout the preserve.

Native plants support biodiversity by providing nectar, pollen and seeds for wildlife as well as an environment for these animals to live and breed. Matt Daly of MGD Horticulture provided the plants including Lady, Royal, and Maidenhair ferns, Eastern Prickly Pear, Seaside Goldenrod, and plugs of native grass and flowers for the meadow. Look for these plants on your next visit to the Wolf Preserve.

A meadow is a planned combination of native grasses and flowering perennials and may also contain native shrubs and woody perennials. Keep in mind that native plants will do best in your area because they are adapted to your climate and soils and will require minimal care after they are established. However, a meadow does require irrigation to start.



You may be tempted to purchase a “meadow seed mix” but be wary. These mixes often contain non-native, and possibly invasive weed seeds. This method is the hardest way to establish a healthy meadow. It's much better to plant intentionally, with plugs of grasses, along with a variety of blooming and non-blooming plants. During our workshop, led by Brian Smith, attendees helped Garden Director Rick Bogusch plant the meadow with a variety of native plants including Little Bluestem, Orange Butterflyweed, Dotted Horsemint, Golden Alexanders, Robin's Plantain, Mountain Mint, Showy Goldenrod, Slender Goldentop and False Indigo.

Other options Brian suggests include: Sideoats Gramma, Wild Strawberry, Wild Indigo, Liatris Blazing Star, Blackeyed Susan, and Native Heuchera.

Interested in learning more about the various workshops at Bridge Gardens? Memberships are available! Visit our website to join and contact Kathy Kennedy, Senior Manager of Outreach at KKennedy@PeconicLandTrust.org to learn more.



\$100,000 Received from the Conservation Partnership Program

Earlier this year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance awarded 80 grants to 51 New York land trusts through its Conservation Partnership Program (CPP). This included two grants to the Peconic Land Trust. The CPP is funded through the State’s Environmental Protection Fund.

Beech Leaf Disease – Treatment and Monitoring: A Stewardship & Resource Management Grant of \$25,000 was awarded to the Trust. This will be used to treat and study beech leaf disease on the Silver Beech and Quail Hill Farm preserves in Amagansett.

Very little is known about this potentially fatal disease that infects the buds of beech trees. Working with certified arborists and foresters and Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Trust will test and monitor different treatment methods on trees in the preserves. Each Spring and Fall through 2023, we’ll revisit the trial sites to collect samples. Final reports will provide information as to possible management considerations and inform long-term stewardship needs for both the Trust and our partners.

It’s an important time to keep an eye out for banding in the leaves, as seen in these photos.

Reese Preserve Trail: \$75,000 was awarded to the Trust to extend the trail system of Wolf Preserve through the adjacent Reese Preserve in Southold. This nearly doubled the length of the trail system. The new trail provides access to the preserves from North Bayview Road.



Example of leaf striping often associated with beech leaf disease

As with the Wolf Preserve trails, the new trails incorporate accessibility features. To accommodate wheelchairs and strollers, the trail has a width of 6 feet and limited inclines. Enjoy these new trails right now! Educational signage and additional features to come.

Interested in learning more about scientific studies at our preserves? Visit [PeconicLandTrust.org/HabitatRestoration](https://www.PeconicLandTrust.org/HabitatRestoration). For more information about these projects contact Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship and Geographic Information Systems, MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Through Farms & Fields

August 7, 2022

Hosted by the Halsey Family at Whitecap Farm | Water Mill

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(list in formation as of 07/29/2022)



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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrating 39 years of Conservation



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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.**

We'd love to hear from you. Feel free to reach out to us with any comments, questions, or concerns. Our full staff list with email addresses can be found on our website, www.PeconicLandTrust.org. Or email us at Info@PeconicLandTrust.org or call **631.283.3195**.

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New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005
or Peconic Land Trust, 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968.