



## The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

January – March 2016

### Conservation News

#### The D'Urso Family Donates Nature Preserve in Amagansett!

We offer our thanks to the **D'Urso family** for their donation of a .7 acre pristine natural habitat near Napeague State Park in East Hampton Town. The new preserve will be added to the Trust's **Ship Wreck Preserve**, an assemblage that includes upland pitch pine woodlands and coastal dunes featuring native flora and fauna. The property is a known migration point for monarch butterflies who rely on the nectar of seaside goldenrod -- a protected New York State flower -- that flourishes on this preserve.



"All of us at the Trust thank the D'Urso family for choosing to conserve this fragile and sensitive piece of natural habitat. It is through the generosity of landowners and communities that conservation opportunities such as this become a reality," said John v.H. Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust.

Want to learn more? Contact **Melanie Cirillo**, Director of Conservation Planning, or **Pam Greene**, Vice President of Stewardship, at 631.283.3195.

## Conservation News

### Hayground Farms Protected for Food

Peconic Land Trust President John v.H. Halsey is pleased to announce that the **Town of Southampton** has purchased enhanced development restrictions on **Hayground Farms**, 24.6 acres of prime agricultural soils located on Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton.



The farmland, acquired by the Trust between 2008 and 2013 from the descendants of William Haines (19.9 acres) and Jack and Gusty Folks (4.7 acres), is currently leased to farmer Peter Dankowski through the Trust's **Farms for the Future Initiative**.

The Town of Southampton had previously purchased development restrictions on all of the farmland at Hayground Farms. However, those restrictions did not assure that the protected farmland would be farmed. The latest purchase by the Town further restricts the use of the property through Affirmative and Affordable Farming Covenants and Resale Restrictions. These covenants and restrictions will ensure that the land will be farmed primarily for food production purposes as well as accessible and affordable to qualified farmers for generations to come.



We thank the Town for its commitment to agriculture and we look forward to our continued collaboration with both the Town and our farming community to assure that fresh, local food is available to all and remains a key component of our historic community character and local economy.

Want to learn more? A full press release with the details can be found on our website, or contact **Melanie Cirillo**, Director of Conservation Planning, at 631.283.3195.

## Preserve Spotlights

### Wolf Preserve

In April 2003, **Mrs. Lenore Wolf** left an incredible legacy for the community through a testamentary gift to the Trust in her will: 20 acres of woodlands **along Main Bayview Road in Southold** (south of Rambler Road). Lenore's love of nature and wildlife inspired her to make this gift so that "people would have a place to breathe and renew their connection to the land." The Wolf Preserve includes habitat for a wide variety of fauna with vibrant wetlands, meadows, and woodlands. The Wolf Preserve was opened to the public in 2006 with two trails winding through the property.



### East Point Preserve

Donated in the memory of **Leo Marder** in December 1985, by **Mr. and Mrs. Jacob K. Fischbach**, this beautiful shoreline preserve juts into Shinnecock Bay in the **Rampasture area of Hampton Bays**. Thank you to photographer Christine Kraft for capturing the beautiful winter scene, taken in January 2008.



*All of us at the Trust are proud to have enabled Mr. and Mrs. Fischbach to preserve East Point in memory of Mr. Marder and Mrs. Lenore Wolf to fulfill her wish to provide her community with the Wolf Preserve as an enduring natural asset for all to enjoy. They are wonderful examples to us all.*

To learn more about legacy gifts and their impact, contact Vice President of Philanthropy **Rebecca A. Chapman** at 631.283.3195.

## Farms for the Future Initiative

### Ag Capital Grant 9 Projects Pre-Approved Application Process is Still Open

Since launching last summer, nine grants have received pre-approval for funding through the \$1 million Agricultural Capital Equipment Grant program, which reimburses agriculture and aquaculture farm operations for investment in equipment and infrastructure. Eligibility details can be found on our website:

[www.PeconicLandTrust.org/AgCap](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org/AgCap).



Up to \$25,000 in reimbursement is available per farm operation. Examples of the pre-approved projects include:

- Paul McCormick of Green Gun Shellfish for a skiff and outboard motor to start an oyster farm in Moriches Bay
- Mays Farm in Wading River for converting its greenhouses from electric to fuel efficient and cost effective natural gas
- Kawasaki Greenhouse in Center Moriches to produce sedum mats for green roofing and
- Chris Wines of Riverhead for 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.

Please help us continue to spread the word to your friends in the farming community. These funds can make a difference . . . apply today! For more information, contact **Thomas Hobson** at 631.283.3195 ext. 20.

The Peconic Land Trust is administering the grant, with funding from **Empire State Development** and support from the **Long Island Community Foundation**.

## Lend Your Voice

### Environmental Protection Fund Governor, Senate & Assembly Budgets Propose \$300 Million Environmental Protection Fund Passed in NY State FY 2017/17 Budget on April 1, 2016

Thanks to the efforts of many -- *most importantly you* -- we are thrilled about significantly increased funding for the Environmental Protection Fund. All three chambers -- Executive, Senate and Assembly proposed a \$300 million EPF in their draft budgets, which was carried through in the final New York State budget adopted on April 1.



The EPF funds vital programs that impact our environment: water quality programs, natural lands conservation efforts, farmland protection programs, enhanced public access to recreational lands, community gardens, grants to land trusts, and so much more. Not only does funding provide for land protection and improved quality of life, but also provides important economic benefits across the state by supporting job growth in many industries including tourism and agriculture.



### In addition to news on the EPF, we would like to share information on two important legislative actions that were announced at the end of 2015:

- The Conservation Easement Tax Incentive was finally -- after 10 years -- made permanent by Congress! This incentive is particularly important on Long Island for farmland conservation efforts.
- Governor Cuomo signed enabling legislation that would allow the five East End towns to move forward with a referendum to extend the current Community Preservation Fund program for an additional 20 years, from 2030 to 2050.



**Want to learn more?** Additional information can be found on our website -- [www.PeconicLandTrust.org/PublicPolicy](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org/PublicPolicy) or by calling **Julie Zaykowski**, Director of Administration, at 631.283.3195.

## Committee Spotlights

"It takes many hands" is the sentiment our President John v.H. Halsey uses often to describe the conservation work of the Trust. We have a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers who lend their "hands" as well as their ingenuity and business savvy to many aspects of our work through our Board Committees. Here are a few . . .

### Public Policy Committee

The Trust's Public Policy Committee, co-chaired by board members **Nancy Goell** and **Herbert Stroebel**, provides guidance to our staff on issues related to local, state, and national legislation -- from the federal Farm Bill to the NYS Environmental Protection Fund to the County's Farmland Preservation program, to agricultural policies and natural lands programs at the Towns.



A key facet of the meetings is dialogue with legislators from various levels of government and experts from different fields regarding the land and resources that are so important to our lives on Long Island. Would you like to get more involved in public policy? We'd love to hear from you! Contact **Julie Zaykowski**, Director of Administration, at 631.283.3195.

### Project Committee

The women and men who provide us with guidance and support in evaluating land conservation projects are led by our Director of Conservation Planning **Melanie Cirillo** and Committee Chair **Steve Jones** -- who is also co-Chair of our Board of Directors.



The committee meets monthly to discuss upcoming projects and their conservation objectives and visits pending conservation projects to see the land from the "ground" and makes recommendations to our Board of Directors. Do you know of a potential conservation project in your neighborhood? Would you like to get more involved? We'd love to hear from you! Contact **Melanie Cirillo**, Director of Conservation Planning, at 631.283.3195.

## Connections: Photos from Winter to Early Spring

### Long Island Grown III



### Bridge Gardens January through March . . .



### Carnivorous Plants with Matt Kaelin . . .



Follow us . . .    

From all of us at the Peconic Land Trust, thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you to conserve our rural heritage.



## PECONIC LAND TRUST

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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 January through March. Join our email mailing list to receive updates from the Trust each month. An archive of our eNewsletters can also be found on our website.

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, at 631.283.3195 ext. 24 or email her at [JSchutt@PeconicLandTrust.org](mailto:JSchutt@PeconicLandTrust.org). Additional information can be found on our website at [www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org).

Financial Disclosure Statement: 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.

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