East Quogue Farmland Protected

Thanks to our supporters, Peconic Land Trust continues to work with many landowners and municipalities to develop alternatives to full-yield development. One recent example is the Kijowski farm in East Quogue. Perhaps the largest single parcel of agricultural land still in cultivation on the west side of the Shinnecock Canal, it forms part of 250+ contiguous acres of active farmland and nursery, providing not only beautiful vistas for residents and visitors to the Town, but also a view of a way of life that we are actively working to preserve.

Until the mid-1970s, Paul and Frances Kijowski, with their four daughters, grew a wide variety of row crops primarily for wholesale markets, including potatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, lima beans, and strawberries. Since then, a neighboring farmer has worked the land, growing an even broader variety of row crops for local merchants and farm stands.

The preservation of this farmland is the fulfillment of a goal that the family has pursued since the early 1920s, when the farm was purchased by Mrs. Kijowski’s parents. “What else would my mother, who was a landless...”
Farmland Protected
« continued from front page

tenant farmer, dream of except owning and farming her own land?” wonders Mrs. Kijowski. One of her daughters, Kathy K. Kazanas, adds, “All of us grew up here knowing its importance to the family. We needed to be able to keep it as it has always been, our farm and our home.”

She continues, “The Peconic Land Trust first introduced us to the idea of selling the development rights to the Town of Southampton. We understood from the very beginning what our options were and how we could best go about achieving our goals. The Trust’s staff worked with our family to create a Conservation Opportunities Plan that would preserve 95 acres, while also creating a limited number of building lots for our family members so that we can return to live there in the future. By selling our development rights to the Town of Southampton and by pursuing a conservation subdivision, we can be sure that the family farm will remain agricultural land and that it can continue to be home for us. The Town of Southampton is living up to its commitment to help farmland owners preserve their lands and to make the process as smooth as possible. This was a terrific partnership between the Trust, the Town and our family, and we hope that our experience will encourage other landowners to come forward and consider taking similar steps.”
Suprisingly, we have learned that many people are confused about the Community Preservation Fund. Please help us inform the public that the Peconic Land Trust does not receive the funds generated by the 2% real estate transfer tax (also known as the “Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund”). These funds are collected by Suffolk County at closings and distributed to each of the five East End towns—East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Southold. The Peconic Land Trust is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt conservation organization that is funded primarily through charitable contributions from individuals.

Wildlife Habitat Project at Quail Hill Preserve

Peconic Land Trust will be the recipient of $11,751 from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement a Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHIP) on 12 acres of Quail Hill Preserve in Amagansett. Existing invasive species, Autumn Olive and Hemp Dogbane, have been removed from the former hayfield, and it has been planted in a warm season grass mixture that includes Big Bluestem, switchgrass, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, and prairie dropseed. Adapted wild flower species such as lupine, columbine and black-eyed Susan will also be planted. This planting will create an environment for upland wildlife habitat and form a wildlife corridor between fields and woods. Many species will benefit, including bobwhite, quail, ringneck pheasant, hawks, falcons, short-eared owls, songbirds, turkeys, rabbits, deer, and fox as well as various insect species.
So far this year, your financial support has enabled the Trust to complete 22 projects, working with landowners, neighbors, and local government. In addition to donations of land and conservation easements to the Trust, we prepare conservation plans and negotiate land acquisitions and the purchase of development rights (PDR) for Suffolk County, Towns, and Villages. Our staff is working on a number of other projects that we expect to complete by year-end and we will give you an update on those in our next newsletter. Your contributions have gone a long way toward protecting working farms, natural lands, and important watershed areas. Thank you for making all of this possible!

**BROOKHAVEN**

**Josef Strobel - Suffolk County/Town of Brookhaven PDR - 22 acres**

Formerly known as Thee’s Dairy Farm, the Strobel farm has been in active agricultural production for more than 80 years and is one of the last surviving links to the area’s rich agricultural past. Protection of this acreage insures that the farm will remain a permanent part of the agricultural landscape in Eastern Brookhaven Town.

**EAST HAMPTON**

**Rita Foster - Town of East Hampton PDR - 17.7 acres**

The property consists of pastureland with several wetland/pond areas and one stable for horses. The Town and the Trust felt that this parcel was an asset to the entire town, because, in addition to the protection of open space and a scenic viewshed, the stable is open to the public unlike many other horse operations.

**Lange - Town of East Hampton Acquisition - 12.8 acres**

These 3 building lots on Springs Fireplace Road adjoin the Trust’s Accabonac Preserve. Two of these lots were purchased through the Town’s affordable housing fund, leaving open possible development in the future. The larger lot was purchased through the Town’s Community Preservation Fund and will be preserved forever.

**Speiss - Town of East Hampton Acquisition - 2 acres**

The tidal wetland site is a nesting area for the Piping Plover and Least Tern, endangered species and was acquired through a bargain sale.

**Ward Bennett/Robert Middleton Easement - 25.65 acres**

Andrew E. Sabin donated a conservation easement to the Peconic Land Trust on the former Ward Bennett home and surrounding land in Springs. The property is the last large undeveloped parcel on Accabonac Harbor that is still privately owned and includes tidal wetlands and woods. The easement protects the view that inspired the artists Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner. The property includes two residences originally built by the noted designer Ward Bennett in the early 1970s.

**Whitmore Easement - 35.22 acres**

Whitmore Nurseries, Inc. donated a conservation easement to Peconic Land Trust on 35.22 acres of tree nursery off CR 114 in East Hampton. The easement reduced the development potential from a possible 15 homes to no more than 6 building lots. A purchase of the remaining development rights by the Town of East Hampton is under consideration.

**RIVERHEAD**

**Benny and Eleanor Gatz - Town of Riverhead PDR - 17.695 acres**

Located on the south side of Sound Avenue in Aquebogue, just east of Church Lane, the property is currently cultivated with a variety of vegetable crops and is an integral part of a larger block of protected farmland that stretches south from Sound Avenue and west to east from Church Lane to Manor Lane.

**Ed Harbes - Town of Riverhead PDR - 31.2 acres**

This property is located on the south side of Main Road in Jamesport and is known as “Harbes Family Farmstand and Wild West Corn Maze,” a destination for many families during the growing season, and particularly in the autumn when activities include pumpkin picking and hayrides, and the sale of flowers and vegetables. A 12-acre area portion of the 43.2 acre farm has been left out of the PDR to facilitate “agri-tainment” activities.

**Schaffner - Suffolk County PDR - 54.4 acres**

This farmland, located on the westerly side of West Lane in Aquebogue, is adjacent to approximately 100 acres of protected land including a PLT preserve and conservation easement previously donated by Elizabeth Schaffner.

**Avery Young - Town of Riverhead PDR - 51.5 acres**

This property is located on the north side of Main Road in Aquebogue. The land is currently leased to a sod farmer.

**Anderson/Benson Point Realty - Town of Riverhead PDR - 28.93 acres**

The property consists of 4 lots, each with a 1-acre development area, located on the south side of Deep Hole Road in Calverton. Until it was purchased by Mr. Anderson, the historically farmed property had been fallow for many years. It is now cultivated with nursery stock.

**KeySpan Corporation - Trust for Public Land/New York State Acquisition and PDR - 529 acres**

The Peconic Land Trust worked with the KeySpan Corporation, New York State, Trust for Public Land, Long Island Farm Bureau, National Audubon Society, and others to protect 529 acres of woodland and farmland in Jamesport. After acquiring the land from KeySpan, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) sold 225 acres of woodland and Long Island Sound frontage to New York State for future use as parkland. In addition, TPL sold development rights restricting the remaining 300 acres to agricultural use to New York State. Under contract to TPL, Peconic Land Trust is currently working on the subdivision of the farmland acreage which, when completed, will result in the conveyance of: 1) 8 farm parcels to farmers, 2) 20 acres to Hallockville Museum Farm and Folk Life Center, and 3) 5 acres to the Antique Power Association.
Squirrelville Realty, LLC - Suffolk County PDR - 77 acres
Part of a total parcel of 120 acres, the property consists of farmland, woodland and bluffs north of Sound Avenue overlooking Long Island Sound. The owners, Randy and Terry Pratt, also own 62 acres to the east, formerly owned by the Reeve family, previously protected by the sale of development rights to Suffolk County. In addition, this property is also covered by a conservation easement held by the Trust which also owns two 20-acre preserves in the immediate area. The first was gifted to the Trust by the Reeve family and the second was gifted by Dr. Caryl Reeve Grantham. The Trust currently manages both the former Reeve farm and the Squirrelville farm.

SHELTER ISLAND
St. Gabriel's - Suffolk County/Town of Shelter Island Acquisition - 8 acres
This parcel is located at the corner of Burns and Cartwright Roads. Several members of the community donated a portion of the purchase price with the County and Town splitting the balance. The County and Town will share title, with the Town managing the site for “general passive use.” This preservation effort resulted in the elimination of 6-7 development rights.

SOUTHAMPTON
Corwin/Winroc Inc. Term Easement - 29.5 acres
Corwin/Winroc Inc. donated a 5-year term easement to the Peconic Land Trust on 29.5 acres fronting on Bullhead Bay that includes pristine woodland and tidal wetlands. The easement has helped reduce increased property taxes on the parcel as a consequence of the Town’s recent reassessment. Hundreds of acres already protected surround this site. Perpetual protection of the property is currently under consideration.

Lehman Preserve - 1.7 acres
Robert Lehman donated a 1.7-acre bayfront parcel to the Trust located on Meadow Lane in the Village of Southampton. This pristine site is 40% wetlands and its protection provides significant wildlife habitat.

Little Noyac Path Preserve - 6.1 acres
This wooded 6.1-acre parcel on Little Noyac Path was purchased from Harold Butcher using the Trust’s Revolving Fund created through the generosity of the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation and several donors. Located in the Town of Southampton’s Aquifer Protection Overlay District and the Pine Barrens/Peconic Bay Maritime System, it was targeted for preservation under the Town’s Community Preservation Project Plan, 2001-2003. Through donations, neighbors will contribute the purchase price to the Trust so that the funds will be restored to the Revolving Fund.

Falkowski - Town of Southampton PDR - 34.3 acres
This farmland is located between Mitchell Lane and Butter Lane along the Scuttle Hole Road corridor. More than 80% of this land was preserved with the farm family retaining the rights to several building lots through a conservation subdivision.

Schleicher - Town of Southampton - Acquisition - 42.5 acres
The acreage, located in the Town of Southampton Critical Wildlands Protection Area near Golf at the Bridge, includes pristine woodlands with some trails.

Tuckahoe Woods – Peconic Land Trust/ Town of Southampton Acquisition - 15 acres
Parcels located off West Neck Road were purchased by the Peconic Land Trust and subsequently sold to the Town of Southampton. The site contains a significant trail system, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Protection of this acreage added to a contiguous block that totals 151 acres protected by the Trust, Town, Village of Southampton and Suffolk County.

SOUTHOLD
Ann Marie Krupski - PLT Acquisition/Southold Town PDR - 26.7 acres
The Trust facilitated the protection of two farmland parcels on Oregon Road and Depot Lane in Cutchogue by purchasing 26.7 acres through a revolving fund established by the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation. The development rights on all but 2 acres were simultaneously sold to the Town. The restricted farmland and the 2-acre parcel will be sold and kept in agricultural production. Proceeds from the sale of development rights and the farmland will replenish the Trust’s revolving fund so that it can be used again to protect land in imminent danger of development.

Niamonitakis - Suffolk County PDR - 12.9 acres
Peconic Land Trust created a conservation plan on this 18.7-acre parcel for the landowner, in which the County purchased development rights on 12.9 farmland acres, 2.5 woodland acres were sold to a neighbor, and 3+ acres were reserved for future homesites and a farm stand.
As part of its long-term management plan for its Reel Point Preserve, Peconic Land Trust will be restoring areas of severe erosion resulting from tidal action as well as vehicle use. A Shelter Island resident donated $5,000 for the first phase of the project, which includes installation of snow fencing. First Coastal Corporation is donating half of the expense of the snow fencing as well as plant material, and it is hoped that further fundraising will provide funds for the next two phases—installation of additional snow fencing along the northern portion of the Preserve and the planting of vegetation in the center portion.

Since the Trust was given the 8-acre Reel Point by Marsha and Herbert Stern in 1995, it has always supported the historic use of the property. As public access to beaches and waterfront property is increasingly restricted by development, it is more critical that sites such as Reel Point are protected but public access is maintained. Facing the pristine Mashomack Preserve, the natural beauty of Reel Point has made it a special place for many Island residents over the years. Unfortunately, it is as fragile as it is beautiful, and the Trust will continue to work with the Town of Shelter Island and neighbors to enforce limited vehicle access (with valid permits) along a portion of the shoreline so that natural areas can be maintained and protected.

The Peconic Land Trust has received a grant of $15,000 from the Henry Phillip Kraft Family Memorial Fund of the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF). The grant will enable the Trust to broaden its outreach work with Suffolk County, the South Fork Towns and Villages, community and business associations, and other conservation organizations. This new program will emphasize communication with landowners, their advisors and community groups, and provide opportunities to explain the various conservation techniques that can be used to protect land from development.

A key component of the program will be the creation of a series of maps, identifying the status of all tax parcels in the Towns of Southampton and East Hampton. Land status categories will include 1) already protected lands, 2) outreach lands currently under consideration for protection, 3) partially protected land, 4) unprotected land, 5) improved land, and 6) community service lands. These maps will identify environmental, agricultural, and open space corridors so that future efforts can chart a course for conservation on a regional basis.

Peconic Land Trust has successfully used this study area mapping technique for the preservation of land within the Southold Western Special Groundwater Protection study area surrounding Laurel Lake in Mattituck on the North Fork. These maps and the related outreach activities were instrumental in protecting critical parcels over several years. The Trust worked with Southold Town, Suffolk County, the Suffolk County Water Authority, and other agencies, along with more than a dozen individual landowners to preserve a majority of the parcels there. It is hoped that the success of this project can be replicated on the South Fork.
North Fork Stewardship Center

Trust staff on the North Fork have been busy working with the Town of Southold as well as individual landowners on various land stewardship and management projects. Town work has included cutting new trails on preserved land such as Dam Pond, Arshamamoque Pond and Preserve, Mill Road Preserve. At Downs Farm Preserve, our staff has been maintaining the existing trails, renovating and building the visitors center, and arranging educational programs. Their work with landowners has concentrated on improving agricultural soils, removing invasive species, and restoration work. They are very busy to say the least but, when asked to provide a “wish list” of equipment for the newsletter, Denise Markut and Ashleigh Reiniger responded in a heartbeat with a list that reads like a 5-year old making up a holiday list. If you have some tools or equipment taking up space in your garage or barn and would like to make a donation to the Trust, you can select from the following . . . hay baler, conditioner, hay rake, drill grass seeder, small plow, rototiller, small truck, 8-10’ trailer to haul mowers, tractor, carpentry tools, and (in their own words) “our greatest dream is to have a Bobcat with bucket on tracks.” You’ll make our Stewardship staff very happy and help the Trust with its budget as well. (And, did we mention a donation of equipment or tools is a tax-deductible contribution?)

New York Doubles Funding for Land Trust Grants Program

Governor George Pataki and the New York State Legislature recently agreed to appropriate $500,000 for the New York State Conservation Partnership Program in 2004-05. This program, which is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, provides grants to land trusts for capacity building and land protection projects. This year’s appropriation represents a 100% increase over last year’s and will enable the program to begin funding larger land protection initiatives with regional significance in addition to increasing the number of grants available for transactions and organizational development.

Ezra Milchman, LTA’s Northeast director, said, “This is excellent news for New York land trusts. Conservation Partnership grants are accelerating the pace of land conservation in New York State, which will result in the protection of thousands of acres of natural areas and farmland for future generations. At the same time, they are helping to build one of the strongest and most effective statewide land trust networks in the nation.”

That network’s advocacy strength was revealed by the hundreds of contacts land trusts made with legislators to explain how they are working locally and regionally to achieve the state’s goal for preserving natural areas and farmland. The program also has strong bipartisan support from Assembly Environmental Conservation Chair Carl Marcellino, as well as support from Governor Pataki, who proposed to double the funding when he submitted his budget to the legislature back in January.

- The Exchange, Fall 2004 (Land Trust Alliance)

Quail Hill Farm Reflections

Recently, we were visited by the latest round of fifth graders, ecstatic to be given freedom to run through a field, and just as energetic when we moved to the far field to harvest hundreds of pounds of red gold spuds. I was forced to speed up our 60-year old potato digger to keep ahead of them in the row. Later, in another field, we were aided in the harvesting of pumpkins and winter squash by a crew of ten workers from the Whole Foods Market in Manhasset. As part of a program created by Earthpledge, a New York City-based sustainability organization, this diverse group of food workers was whisked off from their inside jobs to be at a place where seeds are planted, cultivated, and harvested, and also to get their fingers into the soil. Luckily for us, they were grateful for the chance—they dug sweet potatoes and turned over some soil in order to seed late spinach and greens.

With all of this activity in our Amagansett fields, I feel we are living up to our name as a community farm. It is part of our daily purpose to educate and that implies creating a place that is open to cultivation, conversation, and change. I am encouraged that this place continues to inspire a variety of people—not only the members, but those who come to walk in the field, to help with the harvest, to witness the bees at work, to create a memorable feast in the orchard.

After working with the silt loam at Quail Hill Farm for 15 years now, we are still building good health in soil. Depending on how we choose to care for local soils, and that we save the best of it for cultivation, I hope that it is possible for everyone to gain access to good food. My friend Chuck Matthei, gazing out at a crowd of dedicated conservationists a few years ago, reminded us that as yet, “not everyone is at the table.” I am for taking good care of open space—woodland, field, and water—and I am for making the table longer, and for inviting everyone to sit at the table and eat.

- Scott Chaskey, Quail Hill Preserve Manager
Your support enables the Trust to be proactive in its conservation work as evidenced by this most recent successful effort to protect a farm on the North Fork. When Ann Marie Krupski decided to sell her farmland in Cutchogue, it was not surprising that a number of buyers expressed interest. The two sites (a 20.4-acre parcel and 6.3-acre parcel) on the southwest corner of Depot Lane and Oregon Road made up a total of 26.7 acres—an extraordinary expanse of farmland at risk of being subdivided. Ms. Krupski, whose roots are deep in the area, has countless memories of growing up in a farm family, many of whom still farm the adjacent fields. She explains, “I felt a profound responsibility to protect the land that had been in my family since my grandfather, Andrew Krupski, came from Poland in the early part of the last century.” She did not want to see it developed. A resident of upstate New York, Ms. Krupski was not familiar with Peconic Land Trust and its conservation work with farmers and other landowners. However, when PLT Vice President Tim Caufield contacted her to describe options for her consideration, she was impressed and agreed to work with us.

Oregon Road runs parallel to County Road 48, just to the south, but it is a world apart. Most of the land is farmed by long-time North Fork families living in homes that several generations of ancestors have occupied. Tim Caufield views the Krupski parcels as the “eastern gateway to the Oregon Road corridor,” and as an essential part of Southold’s agricultural future, particularly since adjacent land is protected, as are several properties to the west. Fortunately, the Peconic Land Trust was able to act quickly to purchase the agricultural land and simultaneously sell the development rights on 24.7 acres to the Town of Southold. The Trust intends to sell the protected farmland and a 2-acre development area on the property to keep the land in private ownership and production. The Trust made the purchase using its Revolving Fund that was established by the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation specifically to acquire land that is in imminent danger of development. The fund will be replenished by proceeds from the sale of development rights to the Town of Southold and sale of the restricted farmland and the one home site. The last time the Trust utilized the fund on the North Fork was to acquire Dam Pond in East Marion in 2000. According to Tim Caufield, “The impact of development is painfully obvious—the loss of scenic vistas, the increase in traffic, not only on our highways but also on rural back roads. When we discussed the concept of a revolving fund with The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, they immediately understood the importance of being able to act quickly when vulnerable open space comes on the market.” He adds, “The Oregon Road corridor is key to maintaining the area’s agricultural heritage and Peconic Land Trust will continue its efforts to preserve working farmland.”

Photographed on Ann Marie Krupski’s farmland are (l. to r.) PLT Senior Project Manager Peri Grandone, Town of Southold Supervisor Josh Horton, landowner Ann Marie Krupski, PLT Vice President Timothy Caufield, and Town of Southold Land Preservation Coordinator Melissa Spiro.
Peconic Land Trust and the North Fork Promotional Council co-sponsored “Over the Fields and Through the Woods,” a North Fork bus tour in October that gave participants an insider’s look at North Fork agriculture, mariculture, and the efforts underway to protect regional drinking water supplies and the area’s farms and open space from development. Stops on the tour included Laurel Lake Conservation Area, Sang Lee Farms, North Fork Chips, A Taste of the North Fork, Peconic Baking Company, Harbes Family Farm, the mariculture facility at the Trust’s Shellfisher Preserve, and The Old Field Vineyard. Thank you to all of our volunteers and especially to those who shared their talents and experience with everyone.

Photos: Marsha Kenny
Donor Profile: Lloyd Zuckerberg

Lloyd Zuckerberg is a conservationist who has a love affair with the physical beauty of not only the landscape, but also of buildings that sit well upon that landscape. As a child, he spent Sunday mornings touring the Five Towns of Long Island in southwest Nassau County as his dad pointed out the quality of materials and the distinguishing features of neighborhood houses.

As a student at The Hotchkiss School in Connecticut, he was further nurtured by the openness of the countryside as well as the beauty of the classical neo-Georgian campus. Upon graduating from Tufts and Harvard Business School, he became a senior executive with the firm that restored Bryant Park, adjacent to the New York Public Library. Subsequently, he joined LaSalle Partners where he was deputy project manager of the $200 million renovation of Grand Central Terminal.

In 1997, he founded his own real estate investment and development company with an interest in preserving not only land, but noteworthy buildings. For many, such a career would seem incompatible with someone so sensitive to the landscape, but not for Lloyd. His Manhattan office’s clean architectural purity is not only filled with books on Palladio and Jefferson, but of the many plaques he has received, the one most prominently displayed is the one given to him by Peconic Land Trust. A supporter of the Trust’s conservation work, Lloyd also volunteers his time as a board member of the organization, and has also worked with the Trust on a number of projects.

One of his recent projects was the preservation of a 100-acre estate in Old Westbury. Slated to become a 25-house subdivision, the property is described by Lloyd as “the most beautiful land I have seen this close to Manhattan.” With partners, he bought the property and limited development to only eight houses, several of which already exist, securing protection of the remaining open land through a conservation easement donated to the Peconic Land Trust. Historic buildings on the property are being restored, including an early 20th century dairy barn and a Quaker farmhouse. Motivated by his desire to share his preservation ethic with others in his native Nassau County, he founded the nonprofit Nassau Land Trust, with assistance from Peconic Land Trust.

What’s next? Lloyd acquired a parcel previously subdivided into six lots in Bridgehampton. With assistance from his wife Charlotte, who grew up in a 17th century farmhouse in England, he has commissioned John Reagan, a traditional architect and planner, who has teamed up with Steven Semes, a fellow of the Institute of Classical Architecture, to design houses in the four-square style of many New England homes, similar to the early farmhouses of Eastern Long Island. A large tract of open green will border the road, protected by an easement held by the Peconic Land Trust. Bucking the trend for oversized trophy houses, Lloyd and Charlotte want these to look as if they have always been there. “This is going to be my signature,” says Lloyd. “I hope it inspires others.”

- Fred Smith

Annual Peconinic

The Trust’s Peconinic tradition continued this year on 70 acres of beautiful, protected farmland in Riverhead owned by Randy and Terry Pratt. We thank all of you who helped underwrite the costs of the Peconinic!

Photos: Marsha Kenny
“Through Farms and Fields 2004 - Bridgehampton”

Photos: Noah Caplin, Marsha Kenny, and Charlot Taylor
Mission Statement
The Peconic Land Trust is dedicated to conserving Long Island’s farms, natural lands, and heritage to enrich life in our communities now and in the future.

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