

PECONIC LAND TRUST

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION

Vol. 35, No. 2



Fall 2024



Inspiring a Conservation Ethic

Celebrating 20 Years of

Connections

A Message from our President

What an amazing fall we have had here on Long Island. While we have missed the rain that keeps things green, sustains fall crops, and recharges our aquifer, we know that it will come, hopefully sooner than later! In the meantime, the fall colors have been incredibly vibrant. The warmer weather has given us the opportunity to spend more time outside and experience the beauty and magnificence of all that we have conserved together. Scenic trails to explore, shorelines to walk, and fresh produce to buy during crisp, clear autumn days.

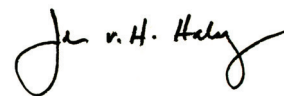
Because of you, we continue to protect all that we know and love on Long Island. In the pages that follow, we touch on a few of the highlights of the year, including the protection of farmland on both the North and South Forks, from Wading River and Mattituck to Bridgehampton, all made possible only by the generosity and commitment of many people in the community. The projects were each unique – one putting a farm back together, another an extraordinary bargain sale of 190 acres of farmland on Oregon Road, most to be resold to farmers, and another the most expensive to date, 27 acres purchased for \$48 million with the help of neighbors and the Town of Southampton, also to be resold to farmers.

We continue to work to preserve sensitive shorelines and wetlands on Long Island from Setauket to the East End. Our coordination and education efforts with residents and partner organizations in the watersheds of Sagg Pond and Georgica Pond are bringing

new tools and technologies like I/A septic systems, permeable reactive barriers, and best land management practices to communities.

Because education has always been a core component of our mission, our cover story this year celebrates the 20th anniversary of Connections and its success in connecting people to land. This milestone is an important one because Connections has brought our work to thousands of people on Long Island in partnership with the many organizations, farmers, scientists, and educators who bring conservation alive and shine a light on its day-to-day impact on our lives.

Thanks again for your incredible support and commitment to community! It is only through our ability to work together that we can achieve meaningful and long-lasting conservation with healthy environments and communities. We look forward to the next 20 years of Connections and beyond!



JHalsey@PeconicLandTrust.org



Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. and John v.H. Halsey at Bridge Gardens Autumn Open House.



The Peconic Land Trust acknowledges that the region – Paumanake (Long Island)/Sewanhacky (Long Island) – where we work and live is the ancestral territory of many communities of Indigenous people. We honor their stewardship of the land for over 10,000 years. We accept our responsibility to protect their cultural and traditional connections to the land.



*Alci Mejia, Juan Antonio Zuniga,
Miguel Flores*

¡ Bienvenidos ! al Centro Agricola

We are excited to welcome our first Latino-run cooperative in our Farms for the Future Initiative.

Miguel Flores, Juan Antonio Zúñiga, and Alci Mejía bring a rich agricultural heritage from their childhoods in El Salvador,

where they cultivated crops such as beans, corn, and coffee.

Back in 2020 Miguel and Juan were members of the Rural & Migrant Ministry Leadership Program where they met Maria del Mar Piedra Buena who helped them form the Long Island Farm Workers Cooperative. Through this leadership program they were able to receive their first grant as a cooperative. Alci joined the group about two years later.

The cooperative pursued online courses through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County to explore opportunities for establishing their own

farm. Their journey led them to join the Cornell Small Farms Program, where they were part of the project Futuro en Ag and connected with the projects team: Mildred Alvarado and María José Oviedo Ventura. Mildred and Maria in turn reached out to the Peconic Land Trust’s Agriculture team, Dan Heston and Jackie Wilson, to see what opportunities might be available through our Farms for the Future Initiative.

This outreach paved the way for them to start farming at the incubator fields at Charnews Farm, part of the Trust’s Agricultural Center in Southold.

While many consider farming a full-time commitment, this group proves otherwise! Miguel, Juan, and Alci each maintain full-time jobs and dedicate their evenings and weekends to the farm. They are currently harvesting around two acres at Charnews Farm, cultivating a diverse range of crops, including peppers, tomatoes, corn, and flowers.

Their harvest is being distributed to local food establishments on the North Fork with plans to eventually launch a CSA program in the future. We look forward to seeing the incredible work they will accomplish over the next five years in the program!

Thank you to our friends at Cornell Cooperative Extension for making the introductions to new farmer friends.

To learn more about the Farms for the Future Initiative, please contact Dan Heston, Director of Agricultural Programs, at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Your Gift Matters

Your gift to the Annual Fund helps protect our working farms, natural lands, and diverse cultural heritage.

Without your support, our work would not be possible.

Thank you.

Giving is easy!

Simply return the enclosed gift envelope, or visit us online. Consider a monthly gift and join our *Peconic Partner* giving program. www.PeconicLandTrust.org/give
Call us at 631.283.3195 or email us at: Info@PeconicLandTrust.org

Inspiring a Conservation Ethic



Connecting You to People and Places Building Community for over 20 Years

When you were young, did you make memories visiting local parks to play ball or catch a frisbee, exploring woodland trails for birds or salamanders, going to the beach to look for seashells or launch a kayak, visiting a farm to get your pumpkin or pick apples with your family?

If you did, you very likely understand the value of preserving Long Island's beautiful environment. But for those without these formative experiences, there's a good chance that conserving working farms, natural areas, pristine beaches, ponds and woodlands are a low priority, or possibly not even on their radar. Why should people care about our work if they haven't experienced the benefits, the joys, and the stories and places we've helped conserve? Such was the realization of the Trust in 2004.

That was the year we began a series of introspective meetings of our newly created Strategic Visioning Committee comprised of several staff and Board members interested in helping plan for the foreseeable future of the Trust. We realized there were

many people across Long Island who didn't really know what a Land Trust was, what the work of the Peconic Land Trust was all about, the challenges we faced, and why they should help us. Experiencing the land, meeting the farmers, paddling the waters, and enjoying restorative time in nature was missing from their daily life.

People are motivated to save what they love, but you can't love the natural beauty that surrounds us or the productive farmlands or even the history of this place (both good and bad) unless you experience it - that is what Connections does. Connections links us to the land and waters but also to each other.

Board Member **Nancy Gilbert**



From Farms...

From the beginning, Connections programs offered a fun way to learn about and meet local farmers – highlighting each family’s story, their amazing variety of products, and providing multiple opportunities for you to discover new growers and producers of delicious, local items. From dairy, goats and chickens, to honey, apples, flowers, oysters and clams, to award-winning wine, and more unique items like snails, asparagus, and hops, Long Island’s farmers have a lot to offer, and farm tours were just the beginning! But Connections has always been more than just farm tours.

To Fields and So Much More...

Looking back to the summer of 2005, you may have participated in a presentation on owls, a nature hike exploring wetland plants, a discussion on solar for East End homeowners or a workshop on winterizing your gardening equipment. Hopefully over the years you have enjoyed many opportunities to get out on a woodland trail, to paddle local waterways, to explore local beaches and to hear from naturalists, botanists, scientists and other outdoor enthusiasts that expanded your knowledge. The arts have also played



Over the 20 years of Connections events, I’ve had the pleasure of introducing people to our beautiful waterways by paddlecraft: from the Peconic River to Napeague Harbor, and nine other estuaries, ponds and tidal creeks in between. These outings generally had “nature themes”, such as signs of spring or fall migration, or a focal species we searched for including Diamondback Terrapins and Horseshoe Crabs. Although Connections offers a wide variety of programs, they all share a very important, common goal: to encourage the best possible stewardship of our landscape and the native plants and animals that reside here.

Mike Bottini, Wildlife Biologist with Seatuck and a frequent program partner over the years.



an important role, with our natural environments explored through the lens of film, sculpture and painting – especially our decade-long partnership with Plein Air Peconic.

Woven throughout these fun, interactive experiences is the story of the Trust’s conservation work: the challenges and successes as we work to understand the goals of landowners open to a conservation outcome, broader community need, and how partnerships with both government and partner organizations can be leveraged. In addition, Connections programs also shine a light on the important stewardship work that occurs after conservation, including creation of walking trails, removal of invasive species to support more native plants, pollinators and wildlife, and providing farmland for lease to new or expanding local farmers. More recently, we’ve focused on expanding our reach to communities with whom we have had less interaction by scheduling specific engagement activities for youth in summer camps and school organizations, and creating partnerships with Niamuck Land Trust, CAST, OLA, The Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreation Center, and others. Over the years, the Trust has partnered with over 120 organizations, farms, scientists, and environmental educators to bring nature home.

Thank you to all for your support and engagement!

We’re grateful to the Richard King Mellon Foundation! 20 years ago the Foundation provided the nascent funding for the development of “Connections,” our educational and volunteer program. To date, we have hosted over 1,000 Connections programs, connecting thousands of people to the wonders of our communities and inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Interested in becoming a part of the Connections community? Contact Senior Manager of Outreach, Kathy Kennedy at KKennedy@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Saving a 150 Year Old Farm in Bridgehampton



Thanks to community members and the Town of Southampton, the Peconic Land Trust acquired 27 acres of farmland in Bridgehampton from the Topping family this past Spring. “When we realized that the Topping Farm property was about to be sold for residential development, our family became determined to find a conservation alternative. We were very fortunate to be introduced to the Peconic Land Trust who worked tirelessly to put a deal together and helped the neighbors raise the necessary private funds,” said Lew Frankfort who lives adjacent to the farm.

In December 2023, the Trust entered into a contract with the Topping family to purchase 27 acres of productive farmland located on Halsey Lane in Bridgehampton. The farmland, which has been farmed for over 150 years by the family, has some of the most productive soils on Long Island – Bridgehampton silt loam and haven loam.

This farmland preservation effort was a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve land in an area with some of the most expensive real estate indicative of the agricultural history and landscape of Eastern Long Island.



“We especially thank Lew Frankfort and his family, along with Greg Holbrook, who were instrumental in the fundraising for this conservation success,” said John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust.

This is truly a conservation deal of a lifetime. We are thankful to the Town of Southampton and the many, many community members who saw how special and important this opportunity was and came together to make it happen.

TOPPING FARMLAND DONORS

Daniel Baldini
 The Bartner Family
 Carleen Borsella and Jonathan Hoefler
 Jody and Jeff Cohen
 Susan Drossman and Adam Sokoloff
 The Frankfort Family
 Susan Harrison and Sara Hart
 Gregory Holbrook and Randall Culpepper
 Nicholas Howey
 Claudia and James Joyce
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 Connie and John Sargent
 Stephen M. Schiller
 Diane and Paul Stebbins
 James Wiener, Ph.D and Ms. Sara Gleit
 Gerard Widdershoven and V. Nicholas Howey



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

Farms for the Future Initiative Is Growing

As we enter the waning days of the 2024 growing season, we have a lot to celebrate.

This year, we expanded the percentage of farmland that we own into active leases with the farming community – both new farmers and established – leasing 371.12 acres of land to 35 farming operations. Farmers leasing land from the Trust are growing an incredible mix of agricultural products, from vegetables, flowers, and fruit, to livestock, bees and snails.

We have also sold, and are in the process of selling, productive farmland in Southold along the Oregon Road corridor to qualified farmers thanks to the Trust’s acquisition of 192.17 acres from Mattituck Farm Holdings, owned by the Bacon Family Trust. To date, we have resold 80.68 of those acres to qualified farmers, including Sang Lee Farms and Sannino Vineyards. We are in the process of selling an additional 81.13 acres through a new Request for Proposal process, and have plans to lease 30.36 acres to farm operations, including graduates from our incubator farm program at Charnews Farm.

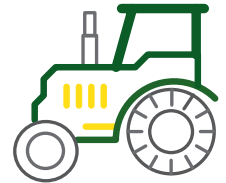
To learn more about our Farms for the Future Initiative, contact Dan Heston, Director of Agricultural Programs, at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org.



We thank the Bacon Family Trust and Mattituck Farm Holdings for ensuring that these acres will be available for farming in perpetuity and for their belief in the Trust to carry this vision into the future.

We built on this momentum later this year with the acquisition of 27 acres of farmland in Bridgehampton, which is currently in the process of being resold to farmers (*see story on previous page*).

Stay tuned for more exciting news in the new year.



Wading River Farmland Initiative Reaches Successful Conclusion



At the end of August, Peconic Land Trust sold six acres of farmland to the Condzella family in Wading River – concluding the multi-pronged Wading River Farmland Initiative the Trust launched in 2020.

These six acres were purchased by the Trust from Kenney Barra in December of 2020. Funding for the project was made possible by a grant from New York State Agriculture and Markets, which provided the funds for the Trust to purchase a conservation easement on the property.

With this latest transaction, the Condzella family has reacquired 24 acres of farmland they previously owned, including the 18 acres acquired from

the Zoumas brothers earlier this year. In total, the Condzellas have 39 acres of farmland under conservation.

“We are so pleased to successfully conclude this multi-tiered transaction that sees additional farmland put back in the hands of the Condzella family,” said John v.H. Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust. “Our thanks go to Kenney Barra, the Condzellas, the Zoumases, NYS Ag & Markets and the many donors who supported this initiative over the past 4 years.”

This exciting project was stewarded by Senior Project Manager Julie Wesnofske. To learn more, contact Julie Wesnofske at JWesnofske@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Home Sweet Home Surrounded by Native Gardens



The Trust's Quail Hill Farm staff have a new house with a native plant yard! Melanie Tebbens, Vice President of Peconic Land Trust applauds the work of Hampton Modular and MGD Horticultural Services, Inc. this past year. This affordable house project, situated near the farm, replaced an existing 1-bedroom seasonal cottage previously donated to the Trust in 1984 by Deborah Ann Light. The small property now boasts a new shingled 3-bedroom house in keeping with the neighborhood, and a sustainable landscaped yard designed to be resilient to dynamic weather patterns we experience.

Whether it's drought conditions or excessive rain, the native plantings have been selected to thrive without an irrigation system or mowing (like a conventional lawn). The geraniums and low bush blueberry thrive in the shaded side-yard, prairie dropseed grass, sweet pepperbush, and black-eyed Susans handle the drier conditions in the sun and conceal the new I/A septic system infrastructure that needs to be accessible for regular maintenance. The American holly and bayberry provide privacy for the corner lot's visibility without requiring regular hedge trimming,

while the iris and soft rush are planted around the native stones for the bioswale to retain excess water that collects from the side and front yards. All this topped off with a clover pathway meandering throughout to weed out invasives, and a native gravel patio area to enjoy the cooler yard on a hot summer's day.

Let's check in next season to capture the beauty of their blossoms to which insects, birds, and bees will likely be attracted.

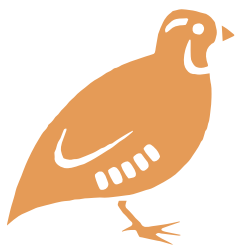
Interested in learning more? Contact Melanie Tebbens at MTebbens@PeconicLandTrust.org.





Field Notes: Musings of the 2024 Season from Layton...

On the far side of the Autumnal Equinox, the daylength diminishes as we usher in the close of our 35th year of Community Supported Agriculture here on Deep Lane. This season, we successfully completed construction of a new modular home for our apprentices, began moving farm operations into our timber frame barn, hosted field trips with youth from local partner organizations like OLA and The Center, trialed new summer cover crop mixes, trained up a cohort of five beginning farmers, and hosted a raft of events for our CSA members, apprentices and community members. This summer featured fairly good growing conditions on account of regular rain



events and adequate sunshine, allowing for fields and farmers to dry out and keep humming along largely on schedule. I say this a lot, but timing is everything, and just as soon as one's best-laid production

plans are tighter than a Coltrane solo, heavy rain events or prolonged drought can throw everything awry. The knock-on effects of diversified vegetable farming include our ability to absorb risk and still meet the moment: this season, we fed over 325 families each week, and supplied several restaurant partners as well as our farmers market stall.

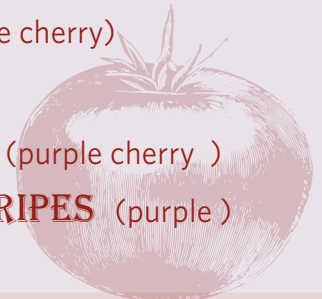
One of the most unique aspects of Quail Hill Community Farm is its character, inlaid with 35 years of humans interacting with the land and one another, season after season, year after year. Since 1990, Quail Hill Community Farm has strived to strengthen ties between humans and the land: farmers and eaters, warp and weft alike. These relationships are our animating force, as well as the innate conservation ethic of stewarding land, building soil, and growing great food to nourish our East End community.

Interested in learning more about Quail Hill Farm? Contact Farm Director Layton Guenther at LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Presenting: The GREAT Tomato Taste Off

The Great Tomato Taste-Off went beautifully this past season. Under the direction of GTTO maestra Jane Weissman, we supped on a smorgasbord of the **love apple** in 50 or so enticing shapes, colors and flavors. More than 150 people joined us, with 117 tasters filling out rating sheets. A small army of volunteers, farmers and Trust staff were mobilized for this event, and we (enthusiastically!) thank all involved in helping us pull it off. **And the results are in!**

- 1 MATT'S WILD CHERRY (red cherry)
- 2 SUNGOLD (orange cherry)
- 3 GLACIER (red)
- 4 BLACK ZEBRA (purple cherry)
- 5 CHOCOLATE STRIPES (purple)



Through Farms & Fields

A COUNTRY SUPPER IN CELEBRATION OF OUR LOCAL BOUNTY

Scenes from our 2024 celebration at *Channing Fields, Bridgehampton, New York*



SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 3, 2025

www.PeconicLandTrust.org/TFF2025

An Afternoon of Celebration at Channing Fields



Honoring Kate and Andrew Davis

On this beautiful summer evening, we also had the pleasure to thank and celebrate our TFF 2024 Honorees, Kate and Andrew



Davis. While our work with Kate and Andrew is relatively new, the impact of their support has been considerable. They stepped up in a big way to help us acquire Broad Cove, a new 100-acre Trust preserve in Aquebogue, when it was at risk of being developed and time was of the essence. And they have made a multi-year commitment to enable the Trust to make a huge impact in the Georgica Pond watershed. Their partnership with us to conserve land that is critical to water quality, wildlife, and the public has been extraordinary.

Along with funding for research and mitigation strategies, their contributions are having a direct impact on the health and well-being of our communities. We have nothing but gratitude for Kate and Andrew as they join the growing list of our honorees who have truly made a difference.

Thank you to those who gathered with us to celebrate conservation - and to the Davises and the Channings for their commitment and support of conservation on Long Island!

This summer, we celebrated conservation at our annual supper, Through Farms and Fields.

We were honored to be breaking bread together at Channing Fields, an extraordinary location that exemplifies the vision and will of the late Walter Channing and his family to conserve over 50 acres of land in Bridgehampton. The Trust is especially proud to have been of service to Walter in his conservation quest.

For many years beginning in the early 1990s, the Trust was fortunate to work with Walter on his vision to acquire and protect over 50 acres of land in Bridgehampton. These acres, including vines, meadows and woodland, are part of an assemblage of over 100 acres that the Trust worked to preserve. We thank Molly Channing and her family for welcoming us.



Interested in attending or learning more about sponsorship opportunities for next year's Through Farms and Fields? Contact Bridget Micieli-Martinez, Senior Marketing & Event Manager at BMartinez@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Having a Gourd Time at the Autumn Open House

The Trust welcomed people of all ages to its annual Autumn Open House in October. The day dawned sunny and bright, and drew an enthusiastic crowd to Bridge Gardens. There was much to do throughout the afternoon, including a garden-wide scavenger hunt, painting a pumpkin to bring home, creating a nature-inspired cyanotype print with Parrish Road Show artist Andrea Cote, seed planting with Summerhill Landscapes, a guided bird walk with Sofo, and more! The Tewa Marimba Band from Bridgehampton School entertained throughout the afternoon to enthusiastic applause, and the day closed with a song of gratitude offered by members of the Shinnecock Nation.



Thank you to our wonderful hardworking staff and volunteers as well as our program partners, including Bridgehampton Museum, Children’s Museum of the East End, Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, Hank’s Pumpkintown, Parrish Art Museum, The Shine Studio, Shinnecock Kelp Farmers, South Fork Natural History Museum (SoFo), Suffolk Alliance for Pollinators, Summerhill Landscapes, and the Tewa Marimba Band.

Bridge Gardens, a Community Resource for All



Bridge Gardens saw many new and familiar faces this year as we redoubled our efforts to make the space a true community resource. In fact, art and culture took center stage this year when the Parrish Road Show artist, Andrea Cote, created and installed a garden-wide exhibition. Andrea's art uses the sun and lunar cycles as inspiration to imprint images of plants through a cyanotype process on fabric. Visitors of all ages came to view this beautiful exhibition and enjoyed relaxing with friends and family.

Bridge Gardens was also the setting for returning visits with the students of the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreation Center (The Center) who arrived weekly throughout the summer for a variety of hands-on garden experiences. The Center's Ella Snow worked with Garden Director Rick Bogusch to ensure an excellent and immersive experience was enjoyed by all. The Gardens also hosted multiple visits with several other community organizations, including Hampton Library, The Shine Studio, and Hayground School.

June saw Bridge Gardens' first native plant sale, with an enthusiastic crowd purchasing many plants for their gardens, including a variety of grasses, woody shrubs, and flowering perennials. All were healthy and lush and grown locally by North Fork Native Plants. We're busy planning for next year — stay tuned for a June 2025 date. Looking ahead, we're turning our attention to the future of Bridge Gardens and planning to move forward on an adaptive reuse of the Garden House that will make the space ADA compliant. Once the estimated \$4 million project is completed, it will provide

expanded spaces for learning and conversations on issues important to our environment, as well as the return of our wildly popular Winter Lecture Series, cancelled at the start of the pandemic due to a lack of indoor space. The renovation will also enable us to offer more workshops and other programming despite inclement weather, and to provide accessible indoor restrooms.

**Open 7-days a week,
year round!**

Winter hours begin on
December 21 - March 31: 10am - 3pm,

In-Season hours:
April 1 - December 20: 10am - 4pm.



Can't make it to Bridge Gardens?

Visit our blog, at

www.peconiclandtrust.org/blog
where you can enjoy all of Bridge Gardens newsletters, videos, and stories, including Rick's Native Plant of the Month, Weed of the Month, garden-to-table recipes, and more.

**We look forward to sharing
all that is happening at
Bridge Gardens with you!**

*For more information on this project, please contact
Bridge Gardens Director, Rick Bogusch at RBogusch@PeconicLandTrust.org.*



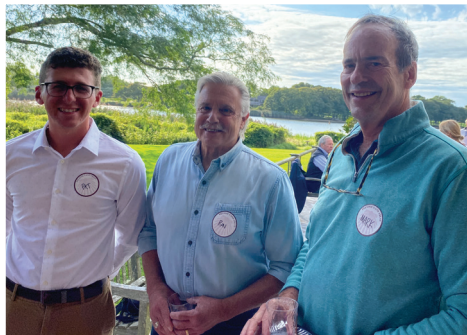
Celebrating and Saving Sag Pond

The Sag Pond community came together in August for a research update and engaging conversation about the future of Sag Pond.

Like many of our ponds and bays on eastern Long Island, Sag Pond has long suffered from the effects of excessive nutrient loading from various sources. In 2019, Peconic Land Trust began building a coalition of partners, including Stony Brook University, committed to studying numerous issues that plague the pond with the hope of implementing solutions to improve the resilience of this fragile and precious place.

The preliminary findings confirmed that an overabundance of nitrogen and other nutrients in the water leads to harmful algal blooms in Sag Pond. The likely sources of nitrogen include fertilizer runoff from farms and lawns, aging septic systems, legacy nitrogen from numerous sources found in groundwater and (to a lesser degree) atmospheric deposition.

In 2021, with the cause of the algal blooms identified, the Trust contracted scientists from Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) Marine program to research the locations of nitrogen-rich groundwater seepage into the pond and potential remediation



Scenes from the summer update garden party on Sag Pond

methods to remove nitrogen before it reaches the pond.

Once the sources of groundwater seepage areas were identified, we began the process of locating areas for the installation of Permeable Reactive Barriers (PRBs). PRBs are a remediation method that breaks down

nitrogen and other nutrients before they reach the pond using natural materials such as wood chips.

PRBs act as an underground sponge, removing nitrogen and other contaminants from

groundwater before they reach Sag Pond. With no aboveground structures, they're virtually invisible. We actually walked right past them after the presentation!

Installed in October of 2023, the pilot PRB is already reducing nutrients flowing into Sag Pond from this site by 40%. Permitting for the next PRB is in the works, and prospective future sites are still being identified.

This critical remediation work is only possible because of the passion and generosity of the Sag Pond community. We need your help to protect Sag Pond's future.

To learn more, contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Citizen Science Opportunity! Help Us Help Project R.I.S.E



*Rachel Friedman, Outreach Assistant
Coordinator, Peconic Estuary Program
geotagging at Broad Cove Preserve*

The impact of climate change along our coastlines can be difficult to detect with an occasional visit to the beach.

However, capturing

images of sea level rise over time will surely tell the story. With this in mind, our stewardship team partnered with Peconic Baykeeper earlier this year to install three Chronolog stations in support of the bay keeper's Project R.I.S.E. (Recording Inundation Surrounding the Estuary) initiative. You can help!

Project R.I.S.E. asks those who visit certain properties located along the Peconic Estuary (situated between the North and South Forks) to take a photo and upload it to Chronolog. All

photos collectively document the long-term impact of climate change and sea level rise on our shorelines. The Trust's Widow's Hole Preserve at the end of Fourth Street in Greenport, Edwards Farm Preserve on the Main Road in Orient, and Broad Cove Preserve on Overlook Drive in Riverhead each have a Chronolog station in place. Simply walk to the shoreline where you'll find a wooden post on which is mounted a cell phone holder. Put your cell phone in it horizontally and snap a photo of the shoreline and then follow the directions to send your photo to Chronolog.

This citizen science initiative is a five year effort, funded by a grant provided through the Peconic Estuary Partnership.

Interested in visiting all 15 Chronolog sites?

Go to www.PeconicBaykeeper.org for more information and a complete listing of places to visit and photograph.

Your help will make a difference!

Tim Wheeler, Living Lands Regional Manager

The Living Lands Program, an initiative of the Trust and Perfect Earth Project, is designed to educate homeowners on environmentally responsible gardening and land care practices.

Leading the program on Long Island is Tim Wheeler, Living Lands Regional Manager. Since March, Tim has been meeting with homeowners to help them transition from conventional, toxic landscaping methods to nature-based land care practices.

Tim comes to this role with a background in ecology and a master's in environmental management. Most recently he was an environmental educator at Wave Hill in the Bronx. What drew him to Perfect Earth Project was the opportunity to work with the community and combine his working background with his hobby of gardening.

If you live on the South Fork between Hampton Bays and Montauk, you can schedule a free, 1-hour home visit with Tim.



During the visit, he will review your current landscaping practices and answer site-specific questions. Afterwards he will follow up with a report that includes suggestions and tips on improving your landscape and practices.

His top suggestions are to stop using all pesticides and chemical fertilizers and to irrigate deeply (6-8 inches deep; at least 30 minutes) only when needed. It's better for your plants.

Thank you to the Georgica Pond and Sagg Pond communities for supporting this position and the free home visits.

To learn more about the Living Lands Program, or to schedule a home consultation, visit perfectearthproject.org/living-lands/

Over the past year, we are grateful to our . . .

Supporters at all levels for joining us in looking towards a future that values the working farms, natural lands, and the heritage we all share.

PECONIC LEGACY CIRCLE

Peconic Legacy Circle members have let us know their intention to remember the Trust in their estate planning. Legacy gifts are among the most meaningful ways to ensure that Long Island's beautiful beaches, clean water, working farms, majestic woodland, and pristine wetlands will be protected for generations to come.

Jerry Adler and Beth Lebowitz
Carol Mulvihill Ahlers and Ronald Ahlers
John Bacon
Maddy Beckwith
Glorian Berk
Judith C. Bird
James Cain
Thomas K. Chu, Esq.
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TRUSTEES COUNCIL

Trustees Council members support our work and further the Trust's mission in both an advisory and honorary capacity. Council members are donors who gave at the \$25,000 level or more, and/or those who have made an extraordinary lifetime gift to the Trust.

Avalon Nature Preserve
Zack Bacon
Daniel Baldini
Cecilia and Doug Bartner
Glorian Berk
Jeff and Jody Cohen

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Thank you to our Council members for your continued leadership and support!



Following a Coffee & Conversation gathering held at her home in Peconic, host Jan Nicholson led Council and Legacy Circle members for a tour of the historic cottage she recently protected in partnership with the Trust.

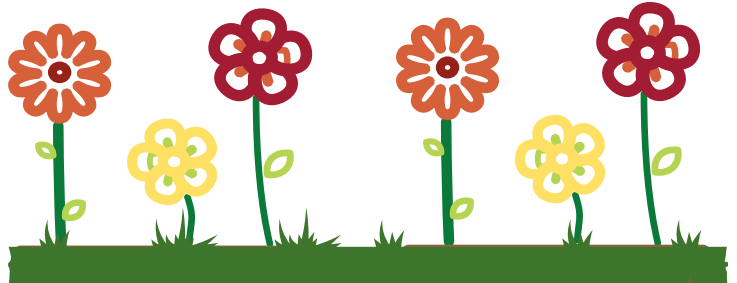


At a Council Luncheon in Manhattan, Council and Legacy Circle members learned about land initiatives implemented on the Sisters of Saint Joseph's 212-acre Brentwood campus.

In appreciation of your generosity, the Trust provides ongoing opportunities for our major supporters to engage with our work and broader conservation challenges.

On a quarterly basis, we invite all Council and Legacy Circle members to join us for Coffee and Conversation events. Held both in-person and virtually over Zoom, these events are an opportunity to connect with leaders on the Trust's staff and board and to learn more about the recent conservation achievements made possible by your support. Members of our Legacy Circle and Trustees and Conservation Councils are also invited to join us throughout the year for our Council Luncheon networking and educational events.

To learn more about how to increase your giving to become a Council member, contact Olivia Waterhouse, Donor Relations Coordinator, at OWaterhouse@PeconicLandTrust.org.



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WHAT A DAY FOR PECONIC!

Every year, on the first Saturday of June, we celebrate land conservation with you. In 2024, we hosted our annual thank you picnic at the historic Sylvester Manor located on Shelter Island for a day of delicious lunch, music from East Bound Freight, lawn games, engaging conversation and an overwhelming sense of togetherness. We celebrated over 40 years of conservation work under clear skies and abundant sunshine. Thank you to Stephen Searl, Sara Gordon, and the entire team at Sylvester Manor for welcoming us.

We can't wait to see you in 2025!



PECONIC LAND TRUST



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

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Did You Know ?

While many believe that the funds raised by the 2% real estate transfer tax go to Peconic Land Trust for its conservation programs, this is incorrect!

The Peconic Land Trust raises the majority of its funds through private donations. Thank you for your support!

The 2% real estate transfer tax paid by buyers goes directly to the Town in which the property purchased is located.