PECONIC LAND TRUST

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION

VOL. 18, No 1



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2006

President's Column

A Celebration of Our Donors

s the Peconic Land Trust enters its 24th year, development pressures continue to impact the owners of working farms and natural lands in staggering ways, whether due to the specter of federal estate taxes or the sheer difficulty of owning and maintaining valuable land in our changing communities. What is amazing to me is that, despite these pressures and the anxiety that accompanies them, so many landowners have an incredible will and determination to hold onto their land... and that is where the Trust comes in. We listen to the needs and goals of landowners, we study their land and the resources therein, and we come up with practical and pragmatic ways to conserve land, farms, and ways of life.

As we continue with the planning, land protection, and stewardship so fundamental to our work, we are increasingly devoting resources toward connecting people to land through events and activities for the public at large. We are striving to nurture a growing conservation ethic that values the food and resources of our region as well as the importance of sustaining Mother Earth. We are also engaged in public policy from the federal to the local level through the support of legislation that enhances incentives for conservation (e.g., a deferral of estate taxes on all lands of conservation value, expedited approval of conservation subdivisions that protect 80% of the land, etc.).

We also recognize that people are as important as land... what is farmland without the farmer, what is a bay with-

out shellfish and baymen/women to harvest them? What is a community without a diversity of people, young and old, white and of color, of wealth and modest means? As property values and development increase, we risk losing not only our agricultural heritage and natural diversity, but our cultural and economic diversity as well. So, in addition to conserving land, we are seeking ways to conserve our communities by adapting the tools we use to protect land so that diverse communities of people can live and survive on Long Island. In so doing, we must make conservation and our mission relevant to all.

We cannot conserve the land we know and love (as well as the communities therein) alone and that is where you come in. By supporting the Trust, you are indeed a partner in our efforts to conserve Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage for our communities now and in the future. Whether you are a volunteer, a donor, a government official, or a landowner, we truly appreciate your confidence and trust in our ability to make a difference in our communities. We can't do it without you! Thank you so much for your continued support!

John v.H. Halsey
President
Peconic Land Trust



Donor Profile

Alex Weil: Inspired by Memories of the East End's Past

For many, the East End of Long Island provides a perfect opportunity to kick back and relax, to recoup from the fast-paced lifestyle of Manhattan in a bucolic setting

that both calms and inspires. These are the reflections from creative maven Alex Weil. For Weil, his home in Wainscott is the perfect place to get away from it all. "For me, the peace and tranquility—the wind, the air, the ocean, and because of its position, there is a unique color scheme that I see. To me it equals escape... a place to shut down. Like everyone else from New York City, I have an intense life on the fast track, multitasking, competing in a tough business, and needing the clarity to come up with new ideas. My retreat to Wainscott gives me the space I need to be able to relax and clear the channels in my head... as well as have a good time."

Donor Profile

Alex Weil: Inspired by Memories (continued from front cover)

While describing this feeling, Weil evokes the imagery of James MacNeil Whistler, who painted landscapes at the end of the 19th century. "He captured [that color]" said Weil, referring to Whistler's watercolor, Seascape (ca. 1883-1884). came from a combination of the sand, the dune grass, the ocean and the blue of the sky that I believe is really unique in the Hamptons. I don't



James MacNeil Whistler's Seascape

know why, but it certainly *is* different than the color of the sky in New York City—and you can see it all through the seasons."

Weil's first memories of Long Island go back nearly 35 years ago, as a young man visiting. "At that time, I can recollect many four corner intersections with farmland on each corner. Today, that no longer exists," said Weil. Those memories have inspired Weil to make a difference.

It was in 2005 when Weil decided that while change is good, there needed to be some effort to preserve the "bucolic" feeling of his community as the opportunity presented itself. And, fortunately for the Peconic Land Trust, those feelings coincided with the start of what would become two significant conservation projects in Wainscott: the Babinski Farm on Beach Lane and the Conklin House and adjoining field on the corner of Main Street and Sayre's Path.

Babinski Farm

At the beginning of 2005, the Peconic Land Trust held a neighbor meet and greet gathering in New York City to engender interest and funds for the conservation of Babinski Farm. "Alex Weil stood out at this meeting, making a significant contribution and beginning an important conversation with neighbors about the necessity of participating in this effort," said Rebecca A. Chapman, Vice President of Philanthropy.

"I've only lived on two streets on the East End-Further Lane in East Hampton and Beach Lane in Wainscott," said Weil. "Beach Lane is one of those very special places, it is one of the last places where you have a working farm in close proximity to the ocean. And where you can get the sound and smell and sight of the sea combined with the sounds and smells and sights of the farm... unique, old-school, beautiful and bucolic."

"When I found out that only \$2.5 million was needed to complete the [Babinski] deal, I stood up and said we'd have to be crazy to let this deal get by us. And the response was great," said Weil. But Weil's enthusiasm for the project is not only driven by the land, but by the man, farmer Andy Babinski: "He is clearly a man of integrity and his choices are dictated by who he is and what he wants to accomplish, not just by how much money he can get. That is rare."

Conklin Homestead

Weil's participation in the protection of the Babinski Farm became a prelude to his contribution in the conservation of the Conklin property later that year. Both properties were protected through sales of development rights to the Trust and the Town of East Hampton in January 2006. "Now, I'm working towards a trifecta," Weil says, hoping to one day see another Babinski farmland parcel conserved, this one owned by Andy Babinski's sister. "We hope that one day we will be able to complete a transaction that will work for her." Another area in his sights is Main Street in Wainscott.

"There are all kinds of possibilities out there and there are tremendous opportunities for people like me to make a contribution," said Weil. "Basically, we have to wake up the rich and stop talking about the changes that are happening here and do something positive about it. We all have to live up to our convictions."

That sentiment has carried on in the next generation. Last November, Weil's daughter, Marion Roaman, organized a fundraiser at ZoneHampton, her spinning studio and exercise clothing boutique in East Hampton, raising close to \$10,000 for the Peconic Land Trust.

By day, Weil is the creative force behind Charlex, a graphics design firm he began with his former business partner, Charles Levy, in the mid-1970s. The firm, an early pioneer in electronic imaging for television, created the first MTV winner for best video in 1983 – The Cars' *You Might Think*. Most recently, Weil directed and produced his first animated short film, *One Rat Short*, which has won awards around the world. "The film has succeeded in branding me as a film director as well as helping us to expand Chalex into an animation studio."

Through the work of the Peconic Land Trust, we have the privilege of serving the best of human impulses–generosity, care for our communities and the environment, and support for our mission to conserve Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage for future generations. The philanthropy honor roll highlights the record-setting fundraising year the Peconic Land Trust experienced in 2006. We offer it with thanks to everyone who volunteered, donated to our annual fund or special conservation projects, and attended our education programs and special events... each and every person who responded to our mission with his or her time, talent, or financial support.

our apologies for errors and omissions.

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Chair, Peconic Land Trust Philanthropy Committee

All of us at the Trust are well aware that people are the

most valuable asset of any organization. We know that

our conservation success is the product of lots of work

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MEMORY & HONOR DONORS

The following is a list of donations made to the Peconic Land Trust in memory or honor of special individuals.

In Memory of: Peg Barnes

Mr. Thomas K. Hickey and Ms. Marcia A. Van Dyne

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Special Events

Foster Family Farm Provides Picture Perfect Setting for 2006 Peconinic

ast spring's Peconinic, Peconic Land Trust's annual event to celebrate our donors, volunteers and friends of the land, took place under beautiful blue skies and puffy white clouds on the Foster family's land in Sagaponack. After a few unnerving minutes early in the day, when a fierce wind off the ocean threatened to lift the huge tent skyward, the show went on without a hitch.

Our Board member Marilee Foster drove two of the Fosters' humongous tractors upwind of the tent, and that was that! It was a great day and fun for all 400+ people who attended. We would like to extend a very special thanks to all those who donated items for our Silent and Chinese Auctions and to all of our very generous underwriters, and to the Foster family for hosting the event.



John v.H. Halsey and Lee Foster, Peconinic '06 Host



Peconic Land Trust President John v.H. Halsey with Jeff and Linda Louchheim



 $Young\ conservation is t\ at\ the\ Foster\ farm$



The Peconinic Tent

SAVE THE DATE:

The 2007 Peconinic is scheduled for June 9 in Southold at the Trust's most recent conservation projects—the Oregon Road Farm in Mattituck. This beautiful farm field was recently acquired by the Trust and is now part of an ever greening Oregon Road conservation program. Be sure to attend to see how your donations are working to conserve precious farmland and open space on the North Fork.

Conservation Highlights

Peconic Land Trust Conserves 445 Acres in 2006 with

2006 was a stellar year for our land conservation efforts. The Peconic Land Trust worked with landowners to protect over 445 acres of property throughout the East End. The areas conserved included working farms and vineyards, open meadows, woodlands, wetlands, and historic buildings. Many of these projects were done in conjunction with local municipalities and/or Suffolk County. Since 1983, the Trust has protected over 8,500 acres of land in partnership with local government, communities, and landowners.

None of this would have been possible without the generous donations of our supporters. In addition to the unrestricted funds raised throughout the year from thousands of donors to support a myriad of conservation programs, the Trust received nearly \$10 million to protect specific parcels of land that represent Long Island's natural resources and agricultural heritage.

"We are extremely pleased and satisfied with our accomplishments in 2006; however, we still have a long way to go," said John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust. "We've identified thousands of unprotected acres that include working farms and natural lands throughout Long Island, so our work is cut out for us."

Riverhead Leads in Farmland Conservation

The Peconic Land Trust's work with landowners, the Town of Riverhead, and Suffolk County resulted in the conservation of significant farmland and natural land within this community in 2006. Our efforts included the protection of 24 separate parcels, for a total of 283 acres, the single largest of which was a 64-acre woodland property on the Long Island Sound in Baiting Hollow owned by Ann McQuade. Most of these projects were accomplished in conjunction with the Town–a total of 209 acres–including working farms in Jamesport (Harbes Family Farm on Sound Avenue and Kujawski Farm on Herrick's Lane), Calverton (the Donahue, Edwards, and Hulse farms), and Riverhead (the Alberto tree farm on Main Road and the Sharkey/Molfetta horse farm off Middle Road).

In addition to farmland, the Trust assisted Riverhead Town with the acquisition of three parcels of natural lands: two adjacent to the existing 139-acre 4H property (Adams-Larson and Carter) and nearly five acres of natural lands and wetlands within the Sawmill Creek watershed (Goldman).

Another Southold Vineyard is Protected

In Southold, the Trust's work with landowners resulted in the conservation of 74 acres, the largest of which was 42 acres of the Galluccio vineyard in Cutchogue. In this case, Southold Town purchased the development rights (PDR) simultaneously to the Trust's purchase of the restricted acreage through a bargain sale. The Galluccio acquisition was made possible through funds from the Peconic Land Trust's revolving fund established by the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation. One of the primary purposes of the Trust's revolving fund is to acquire land that is under the threat of development, as the Galluccio property was, and to resell the land to a buyer who will use the protected property as it is intended, in this case in agricultural production. A similar transaction occurred with a tree farm and nursery in Mattituck formerly owned by the Shur family that is part of the Oregon Road agricultural area. The Trust is currently looking at a number of affordable farmland programs to assure that protected farmland is accessible to farmers.

Additional properties protected in Southold include a conservation easement donation on a scenic meadow on Long Island Sound by the Booth family and a memorial conservation easement donated by Gail Wickham in memory of her mother on an 8-acre woodland.

Farm Corridor in East Hampton Grows

The Town of East Hampton was third in terms of towns with total acreage protected in conjunction with the Trust, with just under 50 acres—the largest of which is the 29-acre Damiecki Farm on Stephen Hands Path. This farmland parcel, on the corner of Long Lane and Stephen Hands Path, is located in the Town's corridor of protected farmland. This conservation effort increased the total protected farmland in corridor to 300+ acres. The Town has been working with the Trust since the late '90s to identify and protect farmland in this area, and the Damiecki project is a wonderful example of this partnership.



Landowners and Municipalities



Kujawski Farm, Jamesport, conserved August 2006

Community Conserves Historic Farms

In 2006, the Trust also had a strong year bringing together communities to help save two farmland parcels and an historic farmhouse and barn. Combined, these three community-based efforts mobilized hundreds of residents to donate towards the protection of over 30 acres, and further proved that land conservation continues to be an issue of great significance in our communities. In each of these efforts, the Trust served as a bridge between the landowner, the community, and the Town. A fourth effort, underwritten by neighbors in Sagaponack, enabled the purchase of a 5.7-acre meadow by the Trust through a bargain sale from the owner, Mary Lenore Blair. The property is just off the banks of Sagg Pond. In total, the Trust raised \$9.9 million, ensuring the protection of these important landscapes, as follows:

Conklin (Wainscott): Agricultural and facade easements on the family's 18th-century house and barn were purchased by the Trust and the Town of East Hampton.

Babinski (Wainscott): The protection of the Babinski/Osborn Farm, a joint acquisition of development rights between the Trust and the Town of East Hampton through the town's Community Preservation Fund (CPF).

White (Sagaponack): This 10-acre parcel was conserved with contributions from neighbors in addition to funds from Southampton Town's CPF through the purchase of development rights.

Easements on Historic Properties

In Nissequogue and Wading River, two historic properties—one already recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and the other with a pending registration—had conservation easements granted to the Trust. In Nissequogue, Malcolm E. Smith donated a conservation and historic preservation easement on the ancestral home of Ebenezer Smith, the grandson of Richard Smith I, the original patentee of Smithtown. The property, 19 acres, includes the original house built in 1687, which is on the National Register of Historic Homes and the New York State Register of Historic Places. Mr. Smith, a descendent of Richard Smith I, wanted to ensure that the property will remain intact for future generations as a memorial to his ancestors.

In Wading River, the Woodhull-Danby House, owned by Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Danby, is currently awaiting its National Register of Historic Places registration, but is already on the list of Historic Homes in Riverhead. The

conservation easement is on the 5.7-acre pastoral and wooded property that includes the home, originally built in 1760. The Danby's, concerned about the ongoing development in their community, wanted to be assured that their property remain in its current state for the sake of the community and wildlife. The Danby's are in the process of placing façade easements on the property's structures.



Smith Easement, Nissequogue, conserved November 2006

Stewardship Equipment Wish List

Our stewardship staff welcomes donations of any of the following equipment in good working condition. To make a donation, please contact Pam Greene, Director of Stewardship a (631) 283-3195 pgreene@peconiclandtrust.org.

- Farm equipment
- Wood working tools
- Landscaping tools
- Volunteers
- Hybrid vehicles

You may make a charitable gift to the Trust on our secure website: www.peconiclandtrust.org.



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Mission Statement

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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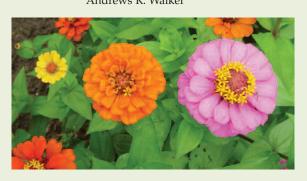
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