



A Step Toward Equity

Sugar Loaf Hill Summit: Sacred Land of Shinnecock People Protected



This acquisition is about a hill, a summit, the most sacred place to the Shinnecock people, a place where their ancestors were buried 3000 years ago. It acknowledges for all parties involved that the land we live on here in Southampton is the ancestral land of the Shinnecock people," said John v.H. Halsey at the Southampton Town Council meeting when it voted unanimously to purchase the development rights on 4.6 acres at the peak of Sugar Loaf Hill on Tuesday, June 8.

After years of work with the Shinnecock Graves Protection Warrior Society (SGPWS), and months of negotiations with the Town and the owners of Sugar Loaf's summit, the Trust acquired this most sacred land on July 22 in a simultaneous transaction wherein the Town purchased the development rights on the property, thereby protecting it from any residential development in the future. Roger Waters, an advocate for the Shinnecock people, provided the bulk of the private funds necessary for the Trust to purchase the property and restore it to its natural state, for which we are most grateful.

"I want to thank the Shinnecock people, especially the Graves Protection Warrior Society for their guidance and

patience throughout. This would not have happened without the leadership of Tela Troge, Becky Genia, and Shane Weeks. It is our intent to manage this land with the SGPWS until such time that we can return it to the Shinnecock people, the ultimate stewards, as a place for their ancestors to rest in peace as well as a place for the public to learn about the history and culture of the Shinnecock Nation," added John.

The Trust will work closely with the SGPWS to restore the land, remove the existing structures, and install a public trail in what will be a year-long restoration project. Upon completion of the restoration, the Trust will petition the Town Board for approval to transfer fee title of the parcel to the Shinnecock people. This will be the first time that land within Shinnecock Hills will be returned to and repatriated by the Shinnecock Nation.

There is much more land to protect in Shinnecock Hills in partnership with the SGPWS and the Town. In order to accomplish this, more private funds will need to be raised. To this end, the Trust has established a special fund for this purpose – the Shinnecock Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. These funds will cover the remaining costs for this project as well as future acquisitions, restoration and ongoing stewardship related to sacred Shinnecock land.

"This endeavor is the first of many steps for a relationship built on trust and respect between Shinnecock Nation and the Town of Southampton, with Peconic Land Trust as a sturdy bridge into this new, brighter future," said Tela Troge, Shinnecock attorney and member of the SGPWS.

This acquisition would not have been possible without the support of Supervisor Jay Schneiderman and the Town Board. Thanks to Trust staff and board members who worked on this project, with special recognition to Project Manager Julie Wesnofske, with strong assists from Josh Halsey and Matt Swain.

Interested in learning more, please contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org or Julie Wesnofske, Project Manager, JWesnofske@PeconicLandTrust.org

Considering the Climate

Plant with Your Local Estuary in Mind

When renovating your space keep your local estuary in mind. Choosing native plants over invasive, non-native plants will benefit both the environment and you!

Native plants as the name suggests are naturally found in the area. They have adapted to the climate and soil of the area requiring less maintenance and no need for fertilizer. A decreased use of fertilizer will improve the water quality of your local estuary.

Native plants also benefit insects and wildlife that have adapted over time to use them as a food resource. Those same creatures may be unable to eat non-native plants limiting the resources available to them. Native plants also provide a habitat for local pollinators.

Do you live within the Peconic Estuary watershed?

If yes, then you might be eligible for the Peconic Estuary Partnership's Homeowner Rewards Program. This rebate program offers up to \$500 for homeowners who take steps to add climate friendly alternatives to their yards. This includes removing pavement, adding rain barrels, and planting native plant gardens.



Hibiscus grandiflorus

Visit their website to learn more,

www.PeconicEstuary.org.

For more ideas of native plantings check out two of our previous webinars, *The Importance of Growing Native Plants: A Guide for Your Landscape* and *Cultivating Nature's Diversity in Your Backyard*. The recordings can be found on our blog.

Thank you to all who have joined us on Zoom and in person this spring into early summer.

Check out the calendar on our website for upcoming programs!



Thanks to everyone who joined us for an afternoon of trivia at virtual Peconinic. We look forward to seeing you in person next year.

Donor Spotlight

Anne Hopkins Desire to Protect North Fork Farmland

When I bought my house in Orient in 1978 there were potatoes growing in the fields behind me and also across the road. The one-acre rectangle my very old house had been moved to in 1963 was carved out of land that had been in a branch of the Terry family since they came to the North Fork in the 17th century. But modern Terrys, like other families, sold lots on the road and the water to enable them to make a go of the rest.



Then in the summer of 1979 came the Temik pesticide crisis. Orient's potato farmers, who depended on it, went out of business, while the manufacturer, Union Carbide, provided us with filters for our wells. Thus, from the beginning of my time on the East End I learned firsthand about the vulnerability of local farms.

I found Orient during my search for a place in the country accessible to Manhattan where I lived and worked. The marshes, creeks and shore birds were irresistible to me because of the many summers I spent in Ipswich north of Boston. As a young friend said at the time, I was cloning Ipswich.

I was a teenager when my family patriotically put in a wartime Victory Garden. I came to love homegrown Swiss chard and tomatoes, both of which I still grow in my own Orient garden. But I was not familiar with real farmland until I settled in Orient. After the potatoes left, the farmland behind me was leased for many years to a local farmer and my summer neighbors varied from peppers to cauliflower to corn. Today there are



two houses and a third lot on those ten acres. Happily for me corn is growing in the field across the road.

In the 1980s, Orient was threatened by several developers seeking to build dozens of houses on large tracts of land from Orient Point to the causeway. I was part of the group that founded the Orient Association in 1985 to counter this trend. We learned that we could fight back. We saved Orient Point, now a county passive park, and the shoreline of Hallocks Bay, and the old Hallock Farm property down the road from me.

During the same period, the Peconic Land Trust was established in Southampton in 1983. As the Trust began to focus on the North Fork as well as the South side, I made my first donation. Of course, my motives are partly selfish, as I like to be surrounded by fields and woodland, which was especially true this past pandemic year. However, I became acutely aware that conserving farmland is a separate, crucial objective, different from preserving open space in general. I happily tolerate the farming negatives, like manure spreading and early-morning plowing.

My most active involvement with the Trust was during the recent campaign to save the Edwards Farm property two miles from me in Orient. It is a continuing joy to me that we succeeded. This very local effort helped me understand just how important the function of a land trust can be.

Since I have now been a full-time resident of Orient for eight of my 43 years as a property owner here, it makes sense to me to devote a major share of my donations to a local organization whose officers I know and trust. Many of the Trust staff have deep roots in our community and really understand the needs of the East End.

- Anne Hopkins

Thank you Anne for your support, involvement, and dedication to the Trust. We appreciate all that you do. And thank you to all who support our work!

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Employer Gift-Matching

Tens of thousands of companies match their employees' charitable donations. Is yours one of them?

Double or even triple your support - reach out to your employer to see if your business has a matching gift program.

For more information, contact Olivia Waterhouse at OWaterhouse@PeconicLandTrust.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PECONIC LAND TRUST!

Georgica Pond Preserve Returns to Nature

The Georgica Pond Preserve is preparing for its return to nature.

Back in May, an eco-barrier was installed to prevent contaminants from entering Georgica Pond during the removal of the old restaurant building.

Throughout this summer and fall, the Trust will restore the property with new native plantings, including Bayberry, Eastern Red Cedar, and native grasses. The purpose of this important habitat restoration is to improve the water quality of Georgica Pond.

Before the old restaurant building was torn down, local fire departments had a chance to use the site for some important trainings. Organized by the East Hampton Fire Department, crews from the East Hampton, Sag Harbor, Amagansett, Springs and Montauk Fire Departments coordinated on smoke drills.



Fall 2020



Summer 2021

According to the East Hampton Fire Department: “The opportunity allowed approximately 60 firefighters to practice the skills necessary to conduct searches for disoriented/lost firefighters in zero visibility conditions, in a large commercial building with a complex floor plan.”

The Peconic Land Trust is honored to provide our local fire departments with the site for this important training.

“All the crews were enthusiastic. Another important aspect of the exercise was getting the different crews the experience of working together and gaining the trust in each other they would need in a real large fire such as at the Sag Harbor Cinema a few years ago,” said Sara Davison, Executive Director of the Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation who observed the drills.



Photo Credit: East Hampton Fire Department/Michael Heller

Want to learn more? Reach out to Kim Quarty, Director of Planning, KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship, MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.

New Septic System Installed in Three Mile Harbor

One of the greatest threats to Long Island’s bays, ponds, and rivers is high levels of nitrogen leeching into the groundwater from residential septic systems. This has been directly linked to algae blooms and reduced oxygen levels that have devastated our once bountiful marine populations and habitat.

However, by installing the latest wastewater treatment systems, you can help reduce the amount of nitrogen going into the groundwater.

Recently, the Trust replaced a cesspool at one of our properties in Amagansett with a Nitrogen Reducing Biofilter system. The house, used by staff from Quail Hill Farm, is located in the Three Mile Harbor sub-watershed. Because Three Mile Harbor has the poorest water quality in East Hampton, upgrading this property is important.

Studies have found that more than half of the groundwater in the Three Mile Harbor watershed drains into the harbor in less than 10 years. This is good news

because renovations made now will quickly lead to an improvement in the water quality. This differs from other areas of Long Island where groundwater can take hundreds of years to travel throughout the watershed.

A big shout out to Stony Brook University’s Center for Clean Water Technology for their help with this project. And also to the Town of East Hampton for providing a grant from the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to fund the project.

To learn more about this project contact Matt Swain, Director of Stewardship, MSwain@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Photo Credit: PW Grosser

Paddling Sebonac Creek with Mike Bottini



The morning dawned cool and grey with the possibility of showers arriving at any time. However, this didn't deter the paddlers who arrived at the end of Sebonac Inlet Road to launch kayaks and explore Sebonac Creek with us. The morning kayaking excursions in early June – 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – were our first in-person educational programs since March 2020, and we couldn't have been more excited to see

everyone.

Both morning paddles were led by Mike Bottini, Wildlife Biologist with Seatuck Environmental Association, who shared observations

about various wildlife at stopping points along the way. Mike discussed research on the habits of horseshoe crabs while pointing out their beach nesting sites, discussed the foraging techniques and underwater habitats of Diamondback Terrapins, the historic return of the Osprey and Bald Eagle to Long Island, and more. Paddlers developed a deeper appreciation of the impact we have on the wildlife that call these beautiful wetlands, marshes, and upland areas home.

Interested in participating in the next paddle event? Contact Kathy Kennedy, Senior Manager of Outreach at KKennedy@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Preserve Update

Sensitive Woodland and Wetland Preserved in Southold

We have some good news to share! At the end of April – thanks to the support of over 25 neighbors – the Peconic Land Trust acquired a small but ecologically important parcel along a native forest corridor on Soundview Avenue in Southold.

The new Soundview Avenue Preserve was acquired from Edith Cosban-Iserman. The conservation was inspired by a neighbor group, with a steering committee whose dedication and boundless energy saw this to completion: Isabelle Kanz, Cassie Kanz, Louise Harrison, Andy Duffy and Mike Dukmejian. "It was such a pleasure to work with a group of residents willing to collaborate on the hard work of research and fundraising in the shared goal of conservation," said Peconic Land Trust Project Manager Holly Sanford. "Their community effort enabled the Trust to acquire and protect this land."

The woodlands in the corridor are home to a variety of plant species, including native wildflowers and Jack-in-the-pulpit as well as grasses, mosses and shrubs.

"This parcel isn't large, but it hosts a small freshwater wetland in a critically important forest corridor," explains community member, donor, and conservation biologist Louise Harrison. "The



The Neighbor Group (left to right): Andy Duffy, Holly Sanford, Project Manager, Peconic Land Trust, Louise Harrison, Cassie Kanz, Isabelle Kanz, Phoebe Faint, and Oliver Faint

corridor occupies an ancient dune system stretching east from Peconic on both sides of Soundview Avenue, through three protected areas: Goldsmith Inlet, Soundview Dunes, and Peconic Dunes County Park. Within this system, interdunal blowout areas have become vernal pools, sphagnum bogs, shrub swamps, and red maple swamps, depending on elevation and exposure. The higher elevations host native forest communities and transitional zones anchoring deep, sandy soils. The overall ecosystem of the naturally forested dune crests and troughs is unique in Southold and deserves further protection."

Interested in learning more? Contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Holly Sanford, Project Manager at HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org.

From the Fields

Happenings from the Ag Center



This summer the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm has been a hub of activity. We've welcomed 50 community gardeners of all levels of experience. They have been busy growing beans, tomatoes, lettuce, berries and more. A group of community gardeners coordinate the donation of excess produce to Community Action Southold Town (CAST).

Quail Hill Farm

Welcome to Quail Hill Farm's 32nd year of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in Amagansett. This year has set records – all shares sold out before the first harvest day in June!

The Farm to Food Pantry program is once again providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center. Now in its 2nd year, the program was increased to 25 weeks to deliver more healthy food to our community in need. We want to thank All for the East End at the Long Island Community Foundation and the 54 generous donors for their amazing support this year.

We've been busy making improvements at the farm too. Farm Manager Brendan McMullan, now in his second year managing the crops and our apprentices, has designed a beautiful new drip irrigation system for the fields on Birch Hill. What used to take us ten hours to water can now be done in two. In addition to its expediency, drip irrigation also helps us conserve water.

We had one of the best garlic crops seen in many seasons. The garlic was planted last November in a field that used to hold compost piles, and sits on the low side of our fields north of Town Lane. Despite a dry spring and early summer, the garlic (an allium, thirsty for water and greedy for compost) sat pretty and grew to a size that will have some of our long-time members amazed. Most of our 25,000 garlic plants are being hung to cure and store. You can help us prepare cloves for the soil during our *Stewardship Day this fall: Saturday, October 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the farm.*

We had a great turn out for our Volunteer Day at the Farm – thank you to those who joined! While many garden beds were beautified, we also had a team take on the overgrown Pollinator Garden in Pioneer Valley. It has never looked better!

The farm also hosted several Connections programs this season. Melissa Hyatt led a series of watercolor workshops. Artists focused on birds, flowers, and landscapes. Master Beekeeper Chris Kelly, owner of Promise Land Apiaries shared his knowledge of pollinators.

The Ag Center was featured in two recent Trust videos. Check out our Peconic Trivia questions from June and Through Farms and Fields feature from August.

PeconicLandTrust.org/blog

Interested in becoming a community gardener or about learning more about the happenings at the Ag Center? Contact Jessie McSwane-Marcus, Stewardship Manager, JMarcus@PeconicLandTrust.org



This summer we have welcomed members to the farm for a variety of programs. Local Zen Buddhist practitioner and farm member Peter Corbett has led morning meditations in the orchard. Owls from the Quogue Wildlife Refuge stopped by one harvest day. In June, everyone came together for a *Pod-luck* (pun intended) accompanied by music from our in-house band, The Cover Crops.

Thanks to all of you for being a part of this community farm. We're honored to be growing good food for you and your family.

To learn more about what's growing at Quail Hill Farm, contact Brendan McMullan, Farm Manager at BMcMullan@PeconicLandTrust.org, or Layton Guenther Farm Director, LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Happenings at Bridge Gardens

Many of you enjoyed our fermented vegetables video series last year. This summer, community gardener Justin Ruaysamran and Garden Director



Rick Bogusch teamed up for in person workshops. At Herb Your Enthusiasm and Pick It and Pickle It, attendees were able to taste some of their garden creations.

Other

workshops this season have included a watercolor series with Barbara Thomas, informative rose care with Paul Wagner of Greener Pasture Organics, and a tour of the herb garden with horticulturist and herbalist Angus Towse.

We're looking forward to welcoming people to the garden for more workshops this autumn.

**Bridge Gardens is open daily from
10 am- 4 pm
36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton**



Pollination Station at Bridge Gardens

Without question, the herb garden is the best location at Bridge Gardens to see pollinating insects at work.

Bugleweed and woad offer some of the first flowers of the year to bees and other insects braving the cold days of March and April. Foxgloves, poppies, feverfew, valerian and catnip, along with sage, thyme, lovage, dill and coriander, provide nectar and pollen to a wide variety of winged visitors in early summer. Later in the season, catmint (*Calamintha nepeta*) and mountain mint (the native *Pycnanthemum muticum*), as well as coneflowers, basils and oreganos, keep them coming back to the garden well into the early days of autumn.

UNCOMMON GROUND IV

Now is a great time to visit Bridge Gardens and enjoy the colors of late summer and early autumn. While there, explore our newly installed sculpture exhibition, Uncommon Ground IV, located throughout the grounds. Curated by Cheryl Sokolow of C Fine Art, Inc. the exhibition features over 20 large contemporary, abstract sculptures. Come back to see the sculptures against the colors of different seasons.

**The display will be on through
September
2022.**





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

We hope you have been well during this unprecedented time. Your health and wellbeing are foremost in our minds. Currently, the grounds of Bridge Gardens, Quail Hill Farm, and the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm, as well as our hiking trails, are open for you to explore. All of our indoor facilities are closed to the public. When visiting, please take care by following all of the Covid-19 guidelines of the CDC, State and local health departments.

We miss you! Please continue to reach out to us with any comments, questions, or concerns, and we will do likewise. Our full staff list with email addresses can be found on our website. Or please email us at Info@PeconicLandTrust.org or call 631.283.3195.



**For a complete list of places to discover, explore,
and enjoy, please visit:
www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Places-to-Visit**

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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, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005 or Peconic Land Trust, 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968