

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For Immediate Release

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**PECONIC LAND TRUST TO HOST PLEIN AIR PECONIC ARTIST EXHIBITION
AT THE SOUTH STREET GALLERY FROM JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 21**

*A collaboration between Artists and the **Peconic Land Trust**, an opening reception with the artists and Trust staff will be on June 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm*

June 12, 2008. Southampton, NY. The Peconic Land Trust is proud to announce the opening of its latest traveling exhibition of Plein Air Peconic on Saturday, June 28, 2008 at The South Street Gallery in Greenport. The opening reception will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and will include many of the artists participating in the exhibition, along with Trust President John v.H. Halsey. The exhibit will run through July 21, 2008.

“The artists participating in Plein Air Peconic events donate a portion of the sale from their work on display to the Peconic Land Trust, which is extremely generous. Of even more value to the Trust, is the attention this collaboration brings to our conservation work – the artists are in essence volunteer field ambassadors for land conservation. We look forward to continuing our association with these dedicated artists in order to help keep the East End the beautiful place it is today,” said Halsey.

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“It is very moving when visitors at the exhibitions tell us that they drive past these scenes every day and that the artwork gives them the opportunity to pause and appreciate the view,” said Eileen Dawn Stretch, plein air painter and member of Plein Air Peconic. “This is a comment that all of us have received and serves as a reminder why this work is important.”

“I’m looking forward to showing the superior works of the talented Plein Air Peconic group, many of whom have turned their attention and focus from the South Fork to the North Fork for this exhibit,” said Amy Worth, owner, The South Street Gallery.

Since 1983, the Peconic Land Trust has worked to conserve Long Island’s working farms, natural lands, and heritage. To date, the Peconic Land Trust’s work with landowners, communities and municipalities has resulted in the conservation of nearly 9,000 acres of land, including more than 5,000 acres of farmland, miles of hiking trails, and over 3,000 acres of preserves and natural land that provide protection and sustainability for watersheds, ocean fronts, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas.

The Trust, a nonprofit organization, raises funds for operating and conservation projects primarily through donations from the public. The work presented by Plein Air Peconic was created through the seasons of 2006, 2007 and early 2008. The artists secured access through the Trust to many conserved landscapes, including: Reel Point, Quail Hill Farm, Quogue Preserve, East Point Preserve, Dam Pond, Berglund marshes, Scallop Pond, and Reeve Farm to mention just a few.

Artists participating in the Greenport exhibition are: Casey Chalem Anderson, Susan D’Alessio, Terry Elkins, Aubrey Grainger, Gail Kern, Michele Margit, Gordon Matheson,

Joanne Rosko, Eileen Dawn Skretch, Tom Steele, Kathryn Szoka, and Ellen Watson. Examples of their work, as well as additional information on the artists can be found on the Trust's website, www.peconiclandtrust.org.

About Plein Air Peconic

Spear headed by Gordon Matheson in 2006, Plein Air Peconic is a group of professional artists with many years experience painting or photographing the East End landscape. The artists paint or photograph conserved sites with the intention of exhibiting the art to draw attention to Peconic Land Trust's work in the community. Plein Air Peconic shares a keen interest with Peconic LandTrust in conserving the East End's vistas.

The first Plein Air Peconic exhibition was held in October 2006 at Ashawagh Hall in East Hampton—with over 100 paintings and photographs on display. Beginning in 2007, the Trust and the artists agreed to create a “traveling” version—taking the work on the road and bringing it into communities throughout the East End (and hopefully beyond). In 2007, the show was in Southampton, Greenport, Riverhead, East Hampton, and Hampton Bays. In 2008, exhibitions have been held in the Springs and Quogue, in addition to Greenport. Scheduled for the fall is an exhibition in Sag Harbor.

The sites represented in Plein Air Peconic feature properties in all five of the East End Towns and include working farms, oceanfront properties, woodlands, bayfronts, meadows, and dunes. In recognition of the work the Trust does to protect these beautiful East End vistas, the artists of Plein Air Peconic donate a portion of all sales to the Peconic Land Trust for land protection and stewardship programs.

About The South Street Gallery

The South Street Gallery, at 18 South Street in Greenport, New York represents a variety of artistic styles and disciplines by both established and emerging artists. The turn of the century building, once Greenport's Town Hall, provides ample space for exhibits, events, workshops and master classes.

About the Peconic Land Trust

The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with farmers, donors, municipalities, and other landowners to conserve nearly 9,000 acres of land on Long Island. The Trust's professional staff carries out the necessary research and planning to identify and implement alternatives to outright development. While working to conserve the productive farms, watersheds, woodlands, and beachfront of Long Island, the Trust is also protecting the unique rural heritage and natural resources of the region.

During 2008, the Peconic Land Trust will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary of conserving Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage for our communities now and in the future. The Trust has Stewardship Centers in Cutchogue and Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. *A common misperception, however, is that the Peconic Land Trust is the recipient of the monies raised through the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund (also referred to as the 2% land transfer tax or the Peconic Land Tax). This is NOT the case. The CPF tax is collected by Suffolk County and then redistributed to the five East End towns, the distribution of which is based on the location of the property from which the tax is acquired.* For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

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