

# PECONIC LAND TRUST



## ABOUT THE PECONIC LAND TRUST

The Peconic Land Trust, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1983 by John v.H. Halsey and a small group of local residents to ensure the protection of Long Island's natural lands, working farms, and heritage. Since its inception, the Trust has worked diligently with farmers, municipalities, developers, landowners, partner organizations, and donors to preserve over 10,000\* acres of land, protecting more working farms on Long Island than any other private conservation organization, and securing millions of dollars from the public and private sector for land protection. What this means to you:

### **Land Conservation Benefits the Community**

The Trust's important work benefits the people and communities of Long Island by helping to protect our area's scenic beauty and rural heritage. The Trust's work to preserve these natural resources will have significant impact for generations:

- Working farms: providing fresh, local produce
- Natural lands and wildlife habitats: providing bio-diversity
- Wetlands and bays: providing clean and productive food sources
- Watersheds: providing critical drinking water supplies
- Walking trails: providing recreational activities

### **Stewardship Enables our Resources to Thrive**

In addition to land protection, we know the importance of stewardship. Trust staff members employ innovative techniques to help farmers, landowners, and municipalities maintain the natural resources of Long Island. Our current stewardship projects include:

- **Shellfisher Preserve**, restoration of this historic shellfish farm includes providing seed clams, oysters, and scallops for local bays and preparing the facility for direct sales to local businesses and consumers;
- **Quail Hill Farm**, the longest running community-supported organic farm on Long Island;
- **Bridge Gardens**, a five-acre public garden in Bridgehampton;
- **Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm**, focusing on promoting regional agriculture, local food production and community;
- Restoration of a 19<sup>th</sup> century English-style barn in Cutchogue at the **North Fork Stewardship Center**;
- Replacement of invasive plant species with native varieties;

- Guardianship of thousands acres of agricultural and natural landscapes . . . and countless land renewal projects that are restoring natural resources throughout our communities.

### **Education is Fundamental to our Future**

The Trust also embraces the idea that education is a critical component to any conservation program. We regularly provide hiking events, lectures, family-oriented activities – like bat and bird house building workshops -- and many other interesting outreach events. Our staff also maintains walking trails through protected lands so that residents, visitors and children can learn and enjoy the benefits of land conservation.

Today, the Peconic Land Trust is a national land trust leader, providing creative approaches to land conservation and stewardship, and supporting legislation and regulations that help conserve our environment for future generations. We are a proud supporting member of the Land Trust Alliance, the pre-eminent service provider to the private land conservation community, and the Long Island Farm Bureau. Our governing board and staff of professionals are committed to the importance of our mission.

*\*as of September 2011*