

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES THE CONSERVATION OF THE ANDEREGG PRESERVE IN RIVERHEAD

A unique partnership between the Trust, the Estate of J. Philip Anderegg, and Randy and Terry Pratt creates a beautiful, natural preserve on Long Island Sound

September 17, 2009. Southampton, New York. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announced a unique conservation partnership, which has culminated in the creation of the Anderegg Preserve, a 19-acre wooded parcel along Long Island Sound in Riverhead. The preserve, dedicated to the memory of J. Philip Anderegg and Etiennette Trouve Anderegg, was made possible through a combination of a generous donation to the Trust for the acquisition of the property by the estate of Mr. Anderegg, overseen by his friend and estate executor Arthur M. Tasker, and a bargain sale* of 19 acres of woodland by Randy and Terry Pratt to the Trust.

In making the announcement, Halsey said: "The path to conservation often takes many turns, and sometimes includes many people. The legacy wishes of Mr. Anderegg, combined with Mr. Tasker's local knowledge, and the conservation ethic of Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, have produced the perpetual protection of beautiful woodland and dunes along Long Island Sound. The Trust is grateful to all involved in this endeavor."

As part of the same transaction, the Pratts transferred a 6.7-acre meadow to the Trust, which had the potential for a single residence, in exchange for a 15-ft. wide strip that

provided the Trust with access to an existing preserve of 40 wooded acres from Sound Avenue. The new transfer enables the Trust to maintain the meadow as a buffer between the preserve and the adjacent protected farmland – more than 100 acres owned by the Pratt’s – to the south. With the addition of the Anderegg Preserve, the Trust now owns and manages 65 acres of preserved soundfront and woodland along Long Island Sound.

In describing the motivations behind the donation, Mr. Tasker noted that Mr. Anderegg wished his estate to be used for the preservation of lands that would be “forever wild.” “The majority of Philip Anderegg’s estate was directed toward the purchase of land to be kept forever wild, or to an organization whose mission and goals were to do that,” said Mr. Tasker. In addition to the protection of this property, Mr. Tasker has made contributions from the Anderegg Estate to two other conservation projects: the Kahtadin Lake project in Maine—4,000 acres to be added to Baxter State Park—with the Trust for Public Land, and the Finch, Pruyn & Company, Inc. property—160,000 acres in the heart of the Adirondacks—with The Nature Conservancy. Other properties in Montana and Rhode Island are currently under consideration. Mr. Tasker, who was born and raised in Greenport, has a special affinity for Long Island’s East End, and is pleased to have been able to identify an appropriate local project – significant natural land – for the estate to protect.

The “forever wild” motivations of Mr. Anderegg complement the Pratt’s intent when they first acquired the property adjacent to 70 acres that is home to their wildlife rehabilitation center and sanctuary. “When this property was initially up for sale, and Tim [Caufield, Vice President of the Trust] told us that a 90-unit condominium development was planned, we were crestfallen. The only options I could see were to sell

our property or to try and buy that land. We ended up buying the property, but we also knew based on conversations with our financial advisor and Tim that we should keep our options open. So, while we had protected a lot of our property, this was still developable. Finding a conservation buyer, with the same interest in seeing this property remain forever undeveloped, was very lucky for us," said Randy Pratt.

The new collection of 65 acres of protected natural lands, in which the Anderegg Preserve is now a part, boasts beautiful viewsheds in every direction, a variety of flora, fauna and wildlife, as well as a range of sensitive natural areas, including uplands, bluffs, ravines, coastal wetland areas, and beachfront.

** **Bargain Sale:** A sale of land or a conservation easement to a qualified organization at less than fair market value. The difference between the fair market value and the bargain sale price may provide the seller with a charitable income tax deduction.*

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, partner organizations, and other landowners to conserve over 9,500 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. 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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