

PECONIC LAND TRUST



CONSERVING LONG ISLAND'S WORKING FARMS, NATURAL LANDS, AND HERITAGE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

ISSUE NO. 8

The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

SUMMER 2019

Community & Education

Widow's Hole Shoreline Comes to Life



Spring ushered in big changes at **Widow's Hole Preserve**, located on the shores of the Peconic Bay in Greenport. Twenty volunteers along with our partners at **Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program** and the **Peconic Estuary Program** planted between 2,500 and 3,000 beach grass plugs in late April.

"By creating a natural environment at the water's edge, we produce habitat for wildlife, stabilize our shorelines with extensive root systems, and provide opportunity for filtration of nutrients and pollution before it enters our bays," explains **Peconic Estuary Program's** Lauren Scheer.



Continuing with the restoration, Stephanie Pawlik's 5th grade class from **Greenport Elementary School** helped complete the installation of the "Living Shoreline" in early May.

For the past four-plus years, Mrs. Pawlik's classes have been an important part of the preserve. As junior stewards, they inspire us every day to make the preserve the best it can be for future generations to learn from and enjoy.



"Creating opportunities for children to connect with nature is never wasted time. I have enjoyed the collaboration with Denise Markut from Peconic Land Trust throughout the past 4-5 years and look forward to years to come," said Mrs. Pawlik. "Introducing the idea of stewardship and conservation at Widow's Hole Preserve to my 5th grade students helps them to learn about the positive impacts that humans can have on the environment. These students are learning not only about stewardship, but also about the wonders of the natural world in this most beautiful place that we are lucky to call home."

The 2.4-acre preserve was donated to the Trust in 2012 by ExxonMobil. Funding for the "Living Shoreline" project was provided by the **Peconic Estuary Program** and we thank them for their support of the preserve! Our thanks also extends to our partners at **Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program** for their technical guidance.

Your gifts allow us to work with teachers and school children like Mrs. Pawlik's classes.

Thank you!

Interested in learning more about the preserve and volunteering? Contact Senior North Fork Stewardship Manager Denise Markut at 631.734.5630 or visit www.PeconicLandTrust.org/WidowsHole.

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS EXCERPTS FROM OUR E-NEWSLETTER SERIES. TO STAY UP TO DATE VISIT OUR BLOG AND PLACES TO VISIT PAGES ON OUR WEBSITE: PECONICLANDTRUST.ORG

Farms for the Future

With a Gift from the LSW Foundation, the Lyle Wells Farm Equipment Co-op was Created for Local Farmers

Lyle Wells cultivated his family's 350 year old farm on the North Fork. He was a leader in the farming community and passionate about agriculture. Lyle passed away in 2018 and we are honored to be able to recognize his legacy with this program.

The problem new farmers often face is a limited amount of capital. This hinders their ability to purchase the equipment needed to start their farm. The Lyle Wells Farm Equipment Co-op was created to help solve this problem.



Photo courtesy of the Wells Family

Farmers in the Farms for the Future program at the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm will now have access to a variety of professional quality tools that are the right size for their operations. The fee to join the co-op is \$250 per year.



For more information about The Lyle Wells Farm Equipment Co-op, contact Stewardship Manager Jessie Marcus at JMarcus@PeconicLandTrust.org.

2019
PECONINIC
June 1, 2019
Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful day in celebration of you and your dedication to land conservation!



Images by Madison Fender Photography

Peconic Land Trust Obtains Temporary Restraining Order for Easement Violation in Amagansett

The Peconic Land Trust obtained a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against 341 Town Lane LLC and its principal Randy Lerner for the violation of the Trust's conservation easement on 5.9 acres of land that includes sensitive, mature woodlands in Amagansett, New York. The order was issued by Acting Justice Joseph Farneti in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Suffolk County on Thursday, August 8, 2019.

"We have a perpetual responsibility as an institution, and as a people, to steward the land and water around us. Everything we have is finite and precious, and under continued threat even if protected from development. This violation is extreme and involved the willful removal of up to 125 native trees – including American Beech, Sassafras, American Holly and White Oak. We are seeking the immediate cessation of removal activities and the full restoration of the property by the defendants," said John v.H. Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust.

This civil action is critical to maintaining the conservation values of the land as well as to serve the broader public purpose on which the conservation of this land was intended.

"There is a long tradition of stewardship on Long Island, but never have the challenges been as extreme as those we are facing today. We have always recognized our perpetual stewardship responsibilities to monitor and enforce conservation restrictions. It is a daunting task but we are determined to assure that every parcel of conserved land remains protected for future generations as set forth in the conservation easements that we hold," added John.



We will keep you up to date on this case as it moves forward. If you have questions, please contact Senior Vice President Pam Greene at 631.283.3195 or PGreene@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Increase Your Impact by Becoming a Peconic Partner

Monthly giving is the easiest and most efficient way to support the Peconic Land Trust.

It's convenient. Donate through your bank account or credit card.

You are in total control. You can easily start, change or stop your gift at any time.

You'll receive less mail because we won't send you multiple solicitations.

That means more of your gift goes directly to protecting the places you love.

Best of all, by giving each month, you'll know that you are maximizing your impact for today and tomorrow!

To learn more about how your contribution sustains the land, water, and farms that are so important to us all, contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development, at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Conservation News

Island's End, Greenport

116 Acres to be Protected on Long Island Sound



Thanks to you, 116 acres of the Island's End Golf and Country Club in Southold will be protected for recreation, open space, and agriculture.

This is one of the largest conservation projects ever undertaken by the

Town of Southold and its **Community Preservation Fund**. Congratulations to all!

Your support of the Trust enabled staffers Tim Caufield and Holly Sanford to work with the owners of Island's End for several years. They prepared a conservation plan for the property and assisted the owners and the Town with its implementation.

This is an incredible win for the community.

The golf course, established in 1961, has long been a popular outdoor destination for residents and visitors alike. It's also been home to local high school golf teams.

In April, the Southold Town Board voted unanimously to purchase the development rights on the property in Greenport. The project will be finalized shortly.

Thank you to the **King Trust**, the **board of Island's End Golf and Country Club**, and the **Town of Southold** for working together to conserve this important community resource.

"For over half a century, the land has provided a wonderful recreational and job-creating resource for the residents and visitors to the North Fork," said Holly in a statement at the public hearing in April. "The conservation of this land – including 800 feet of shoreline and the mature wildlife habitats surrounding the fairways – will be a wonderful benefit for all."

To find out more information about this exciting project, contact Project Manager Holly Sanford at HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Conservation News

Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood

27 Acres Protected for Farming in Western Suffolk County



With the assistance of the Trust, the Sisters of St. Joseph permanently protected 27 acres of their campus for farming through the sale of development rights to Suffolk County under its landmark Farmland Preservation Program. Their farmstand and CSA bring much-needed healthy, organically-grown produce to their neighborhood.



"The Sisters of St. Joseph have been committed to meeting the needs of the people of greater Long Island through education, social service, health care, and pastoral ministry since 1856," said Sister Helen Kearney, CSJ, President of the Sisters of St. Joseph Brentwood.

We thank the Sisters for their unwavering commitment to sustaining a healthy community.

To learn more, contact Dan Heston, Senior Manager, Agricultural Programs, at DHeston@PeconicLandTrust.org or Kim Quarty, Senior Project Manager, at KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Getting to Know...

Ellen Fries and her Family: Long time Quail Hill Farm members and Trust Supporters



"Quail Hill Farm has been part of our family's meal planning for 18 years now. There is nothing like pulling a radish out of the soil with your children, or gathering just the right size zucchini for the particular dish. Or discovering new varieties of tomatoes or lettuces. We learn new things about our food every week.

"Now our grandchildren do the same. Such continuity moves me deeply.

"I have always loved the light and the open spaces. It connects us to the abundance of locally sourced produce and seafood, as well as to the history of the area.

"The beauty of the East End feels so terribly fragile. I am deeply grateful for organizations like Peconic Land Trust, and the folks who are working to protect these precious natural resources.

"These days, I am thinking about the future, and what we leave to our children and grandchildren. Supporting the Trust feels close and personal – somewhat distinct from the abstraction of ideas, values, and beliefs. We experience the impact intimately, through all of our senses."

Thank you Ellen for being such an important part of our farming community. You too can experience the pleasure of fresh local food — become a Quail Hill Farm member today. We could not do it without you!



Quail Hill Farm
Deep Lane, Amagansett

Celebrating 30 years!

**Quail Hill Farm, where Members harvest,
is one of the original
Community Supported Agriculture
farms in the country.**

Join today!

For more information, visit us online at
[www.PeconicLandTrust.org/
QuailHillFarm](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org/QuailHillFarm) or call 631.283.3195.



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Did You Know...

- All the water you use comes from below your feet – ground water is stored in sand and gravel aquifers.
- What you do above ground affects our only drinking water supply.
- Our growing population and overuse has put a big strain on our water supply.

The Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection has launched a new water awareness campaign complete with tips to help you save money and protect our only drinking water source.

Visit www.OurWaterOurLives.com and take the *Our Water Our Lives* pledge!

Naturalist Mike Bottini Makes Discoveries

Wildlife biologist Mike Bottini is a regular leader of the Trust's *Connections* programs. Among his many programs and research activities, Mike is also one of the founders of the Long Island Nature Organization. He is dedicated to protecting our wildlife and their habitat.



In June, Mike led a sold-out paddle of Sebonac Inlet. His focus was on "marine egg layers" and fellow paddlers were not disappointed.

Everyone was excited to discover multiple horseshoe crab nests (though no actual crabs were sighted). They also saw three mature female diamondback terrapin turtles. Mike said these turtles are "one of our most beautiful native turtles and the only one that inhabits the salt marsh and estuary ecosystem year round."



Many thanks to Mike for partnering with us throughout the years!

Your gifts to the annual fund make *Connections* programs possible.
Thank you!

Have special talents and want to get involved?
Contact Senior Outreach Manager Kathy Kennedy,
KKennedy@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Quail Hill Farm's Layton Guenther Accepted into Prestigious Seed Fellow Program



"This winter, I was accepted to join the Seeding Power Fellows, an exciting 18-month fellowship program. This program seeks to educate leaders in the New York food systems movement and increase dialogue and

partnership amongst them" said Layton Guenther, Director of Quail Hill Farm.

"With a focus on racial and social justice, this Fellowship will help me link Quail Hill Farm and the Peconic Land Trust with regional and local partners to better serve our community. I couldn't be more honored and excited."

To learn more about the Seeding Power Fellowship program, contact Layton at LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Congratulations to Jessie Marcus LEAD NY Graduate!



Jessie, center, pictured with other LEAD NY graduates while on their international trip to Kenya.

Stewardship Manager Jessie Marcus graduated on April 12 from LEAD NY, a 2-year leadership development course for professionals in the agriculture, food and natural resource industries of New York State. LEAD NY is a program of Cornell University's Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI).

Jessie and 29 other class members attended seminars focused on personal, professional, and team development, toured farms all across New York State, and traveled to Albany, Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, Canada to learn about issues faced by the agricultural community. The group also traveled to Kenya to learn about the food systems and policies in that developing nation.

"This program was an excellent opportunity to not only learn about many different aspects and sectors of the ag industry locally and around the world, but also to learn more about myself," said Jessie.

To find out more about the LEAD NY program, contact Jessie at JMarcus@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Donor Spotlight

Joe Mc Kay supports the Farms for the Future Initiative through a Legacy Bequest

On May 17th, friends of Joe Mc Kay and his late partner John Page gathered for a farm-to-table luncheon at the Ag Center at Charnews Farm to thank Joe for his legacy bequest to the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative. A plaque dedicated in honor of Joe and John overlooks the 100 acres of humming farmland where novice farmers have the opportunity to grow with the guidance of mentors.



Joe and John's embrace of local agriculture began when they became "year-rounders" on the East End

in 1993. They signed up for a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) at a small farm in Cutchogue, and really began to appreciate the local produce of our rich Long Island soil.

Since then, the booming culinary institutes, the slow food movement, the burgeoning consumer interest in fresh, nutritious and secure food, and the desire of more young and second career people to go into farming have combined to make local agriculture the wave of the future.

It is to support this positive trend that John and Joe committed themselves to the Peconic Land Trust and its mission.

Joe hopes that you will join him in supporting these important local initiatives by giving to the Trust in whatever way makes the most sense to you.

We are so grateful Joe!
And thank you to all of our donors who have decided to include the Trust in your estate plans. We could not do it without you.

To see how estate giving through the Trust can help make your vision for the East End a reality, please contact Amanda Abraham at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.



The Peconic Land Trust is always making connections to the land, the water, the air, and most importantly . . . to You!

Clockwise top from left corner: Friendly faces at *Browders Birds*; hiking at *Cranberry Bog*; enjoying the view on *Sagg Pond*; opening night at *Bridge Gardens Annual Birdhouse Exhibit and Auction*; oyster schucking at *Shellfisher Preserve*; touring at *Sang Lee Farms*; members only music night at *Bridge Gardens*; Hello friend! Mike Bottini introduces kayakers to a resident of *Sebonac Inlet*; transplanting seedlings at *Quail Hill Farm*; exploring a touch tank at the Hampton Bays beach seining.



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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrating 36 years of Conservation

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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.**

Enclosed are highlights from our eNewsletters from April through August 2019.
Join our email list to receive updates from the Trust each month.

Please help us further reduce our carbon footprint. If you change your address, or would like to receive all (or some) of your communications from the Peconic Land Trust by email, let us know!

Contact Janet Schutt, Senior Manager of Donor Services
631.283.3195 ext. 24 or JSchutt@PeconicLandTrust.org.

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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, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271
or Peconic Land Trust, PO Box 1776, Southampton, NY 11969