

# PECONIC LAND TRUST



## **For immediate release**

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### **PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES SPRING EGG HUNT AT THE AGRICULTURAL CENTER AT CHARNEWS FARM**

*Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23 will usher in the new season of family friendly and educational programs at the farm.*

**March 18, 2011. Southampton, New York.** John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announced the opening of the Spring season at the Agricultural Center with a *Spring Egg Hunt* for kids. The Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm, a stewardship project of the Peconic Land Trust located on Young's Avenue in Southold, was established to promote regional agriculture, local food production and community involvement.

The *Spring Egg Hunt* is for children ages 3 to 8, and will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2011. The ribbon will be cut promptly at 1:15 pm for the hunt, which will feature brightly colored eggs filled with chocolate treats hidden throughout the farm's community and learning gardens. The Spring Egg Hunt is free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain will cancel the event.

In addition to the egg hunt this year, a second annual Family Day, with the Southold Mother's Club, is being planned for August, as well as a Barn Dance and Picnic benefit for the Center in July. Educational programs on farming are also planned for this year at the Center, and the second year of the Community Gardens will get underway with an

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orientation on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. A few community garden plots are still available for lease. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month beginning in May, the Community Gardeners will host informal peer-to-peer tips on growing your own vegetables, fruits and flowers at 1:00 pm.

“We hope to see many new faces at the Agricultural Center this Spring, Summer and Fall. This is a wonderful place to learn about our local farming heritage, to get new ideas on growing your own food, as well as to meet with the farmers working the land around the Ag Center –Fred Lee of Sang Lee Farms, Chris Browder of Browder’s Birds, Dan Machin of The Lone Acre Farm, and Stephanie Gaylor of Invincible Summer Farms,” said Pam Greene, Vice President of Stewardship. “There are also many volunteer opportunities to work with the Peconic Land Trust staff at the farm – including our Honey Dew/Dirt Devil workdays with North Fork Stewardship Manager Denise Markut

For more information on programs at the Agricultural Center, or to volunteer, visit us online at [www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org) or call 631.283.3195.

### **About the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm**

In early April 2008, the Peconic Land Trust acquired 23.4 acres of farmland in Southold from the Charnews Family, which included an 1889 farmhouse, barn, and accessory buildings, and established the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm. The mission of the Agricultural Center is to promote regional agriculture, local food production and community involvement. The funding for the initial acquisition came from the Trust’s

Stewardship fund. To replenish the funding, The Trust sold the development rights to the Town of Southold, thereby partially reimbursing the Stewardship Fund. In 2009, the Trust worked with a subcommittee, The Friends of Charnews Farm, in the on-going fundraising efforts. The acquisition phase of fundraising for the farm has been completed, with over 80 donations from local supporters, and a generous matching donation from one of the Trust's long time supporters to close the gap.

Given its unique location and characteristics, the Trust remains committed to actively cultivating the farmland to promote local agriculture and regional food. The Trust has continued to work with the Friends Committee to formulate a plan for community uses of the farmland – including the establishment of both Community Garden plots and an Learning Garden for community education programs. Meanwhile, the Friends Committee is working diligently with the Trust to raise funds to support the farm, as well as to envision the many community benefits that this farm could provide in the future.

**About the Peconic Land Trust:**

The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. With the help of many, the nonprofit Trust has worked in partnership with landowners, local government, organizations, and communities to conserve over 10,000 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. The Trust has Stewardship Centers in

Cutchogue, Bridgehampton 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](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org) or call 631.283.3195.

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