

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES THE DONATION OF THE MCQUADE PRESERVE IN RIVERHEAD

*Ann McQuade has generously donated a 64.4 acres preserve to the Trust,
featuring over 1100 feet of sound front and beach grass
that is home to a wide array of wildlife and plant habitats.*

DECEMBER 17, 2009. SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announced the gift of 64.4 acres of woodland and Sound-frontage in Riverhead to the Trust by Ann McQuade. The gifting of the property is another step in a long-term conservation plan by Mrs. McQuade to realize the perpetual protection and stewardship of this land. In 2006, she sold the development rights to the land to Suffolk County. This was the first purchase of development rights on open space by the County and an unusual event attesting to the significance of the property.

In making the announcement, Halsey said: "Ann has a love of land, and understands the positive impact conservation can have on a community's natural landscapes. We are grateful to Ann for her longstanding support of the Trust, and we will endeavor to be faithful stewards of the property she has entrusted to us, on behalf of community. This preserve is a fitting legacy to her dedication to preserving the rural character of Riverhead and Long Island."

The McQuade Preserve features nearly 1,150 feet of beachfront along Long Island

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Sound, as well as magnificent woodland, replete with an impressive beech forest, meandering trails, and high bluffs. The site also includes remnants of a pine forest system. This is among the few protected wooded habitat parcels remaining on the Sound.

In explaining the decision to donate the property, Ann McQuade said: "My husband and I both grew up in suburban type households, with a limited appreciation for the natural world. Early in our marriage, however, we were lucky enough ((prices were low) to be able to acquire a stretch of undeveloped woods and beach along Long Island Sound. The house, strictly for summer use, was by most standards primitive; for the first 25 years we had no electricity. What we did have was a forest, home to rabbits and chipmunks, warblers and woodpeckers; we had a clearing where wildflowers grew; we had the sea, the wind, the changing seasons, the peace. And slowly but surely, our lives changed direction.

"We were lucky then, and I consider myself lucky now to be in a position to preserve permanently this land which has meant so much to me and my family. Getting there has been a long and complicated process, but the Peconic Land Trust has guided me through it with patience and impressive expertise. I am very grateful for their help."

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

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conscientiously with landowners, communities, municipalities, partner organizations, and donors, to conserve just under 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 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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