

PECONIC LAND TRUST



Peconic Land Trust at a Glance

Mission: The Peconic Land Trust conserves Long Island's working farms, natural lands and heritage for our communities now and in the future.

Founded: The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 by President John v.H. Halsey and a small group of local East End residents.

Area of Interest: Long Island, New York; primarily in the towns of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, Southold and Shelter Island. The Trust has also facilitated preservation in Smithtown, Brookhaven and Nassau County. The Peconic Land Trust works with landowners and municipalities to identify and implement alternatives to development for working farmland, natural lands, and historic properties.

Acres of Land Preserved (as of September 2014): Peconic Land Trust has protected over 11,000 acres of land in partnership with landowners, local governments, partner organizations, communities and donors.

Fundraising: The Trust depends primarily upon private donations to support its conservation work. A common misperception, however, is that the Peconic Land Trust collects and distributes the monies raised through the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund (the CPF is also referred to as the 2% land transfer tax or the Peconic Land Tax). This is NOT the case. The CPF is a public program managed by each of the five East End Towns for the protection of farmland, open space, and community character.

Locations: Peconic Land Trust's main office is in Southampton, NY. The Trust has stewardship centers located in Cutchogue, Amagansett, Southold and Bridgehampton.

Quail Hill Farm: One of the original Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in the US, the farm is located on land donated to the Trust by Deborah Ann Light in Amagansett.

Shellfisher Preserve: Located on the site of the former Shelter Island Oyster Company shellfish farming facility in Southold, the preserve was donated to the Trust by John and Anna Plock in 1996. An extensive restoration project is currently underway, funded in part by the KeySpan Foundation and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development.

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Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm: The mission is to promote regional agriculture, local food production, and community. The Ag Center leases land to new and established farmers, as well as leases community garden plots and provides educational programs through its learning garden and in conjunction with local school groups.

Bridge Gardens: A five-acre public garden, donated to the Peconic Land Trust in 2008 by founders Harry Neyens and Jim Kilpatric.

The Peconic Land Trust is a member of the **Land Trust Alliance** (www.lta.org); a national organization that promotes voluntary private land conservation to benefit communities and natural systems. The LTA represents more than 1,700 land trusts across America. Currently, there are more than 90 land trusts in New York State.