



PECONIC LAND TRUST

Bridge Gardens

For immediate release

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**PECONIC LAND TRUST KICKS OFF ITS
FOURTH ANNUAL SERIES OF “CONVERSATIONS WITH . . .”
DISCUSSIONS WITH NOTABLE EXPERTS HOSTED BY BRIDGE GARDENS**

*The series, beginning on March 3, features conversations on food,
sustainable gardening, and integrated landscapes with Rick Bogusch,
Mark Cappellino, Katharine Griffiths and Edwina von Gal.*

FEBRUARY 6, 2013. SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, and Rick Bogusch, Garden Manager, are pleased to announce the kick-off of the fourth annual “Conversations with . . .” series with notable experts, hosted by Bridge Gardens. Bridge Gardens, a horticultural oasis located in the heart of Bridgehampton, was donated to the Peconic Land Trust in 2008, and has since been the setting for a broad array of cultural and educational programs, including its annual lecture series. Since joining the Trust in 2008 as Garden Director, Rick Bogusch has become a locally known expert in garden design and planning, as well as for his culinary acumen, using plants found throughout the garden. Rick has attracted a number of regional and nationally recognized experts to share their knowledge with friends of Bridge Gardens – and this year’s speakers are no exception.

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All “Conversations with . . . ” programs will begin at 2:00 p.m. and are held at Bridge Gardens, located at 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton (*with the exception of Sunday, March 2, see * below*). Refreshments follow each presentation, and attendees are encouraged to mingle with presenters following each program. All programs are \$15/person and free to current members of Bridge Gardens.

The schedule for 2013 is as follows:

Sunday, March 3: “Cooking with Herbs, Part II” with Rick Bogusch

Our first speaker is Bridge Gardens’ own Rick Bogusch, offering an informative and tasty presentation about using and enjoying herbs from the kitchen garden. This conversation follows up last year’s standing room-only presentation to the members of the Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons and offers more tales about your favorite cooking herbs, including some you may not know. Recipes included!

**Please note, this “Conversations with . . . ” will take place at the Bridgehampton Community House, 2357 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton*

Sunday, March 17: “The Rain Garden” with Mark Cappellino

Mr. Cappellino, will discuss the design, placement and creation of natural rain gardens and the important role they play in passively controlling the polluting impact of rainwater runoff on our bays and drinking water. Join us to learn about what steps you can take to help with this critically important pollution control issue. Mark brings over 18 years of experience as an educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

Sunday, April 7: “Avalon: A Journey through Land Reclamation” with Katharine Griffiths

Ms. Griffiths, Director of Avalon Park and Preserve, will discuss the design, construction and maintenance of Avalon Park, located in Head of the Harbor, New York. Avalon Park is a re-creation of the natural environment that greeted the first indigenous people to settle New York State. Its five distinct natural habitats are populated almost entirely by native flora, and hold the story of our past and quite possibly the seeds of our future. Avalon Park, which opened to the public in June 2001, is open for walking, hiking, contemplating and discovery 365 days of the year from dawn until dusk. For more information, please visit their website at www.AvalonParkAndPreserve.org.

Sunday, April 21: “Why Not? Landscape Design & Sustainability” with Edwina von Gal

Ms. von Gal is known to many for her distinctive landscape design work found throughout the Hamptons and beyond, but few may be aware of her involvement in sustainable land management with the Azuero Earth Project in Panama, the fascinating link between the two, and how she is now bringing it full circle with an initiative in the U.S. Please join us for this presentation as she discusses the intersection of these two topics, and learn more about her commitment to communities and their lands around the globe.

About Bridge Gardens

Bridge Gardens was established in 1988 by Harry Neyens and Jim Kilpatric, who designed and installed the gardens over the ensuing 10 years. In 1997, Bridge Gardens Trust was created as a charitable corporation to maintain and preserve the gardens. In 2008, Neyens and Kilpatric donated Bridge Gardens to the Peconic Land Trust. Rick Bogusch is the Garden Manager.

In 2012, Bridge Gardens adopted a mission to serve as a multi-purpose, multi-disciplinary outdoor classroom, demonstration garden and community resource – and tied the Gardens purpose more closely to the mission of the Peconic Land Trust. With this in mind, the Gardens' vegetable bed, planted in 2010, doubled in size. In the Outer Garden, two large demonstration beds were created alongside the rose garden and planted with cover crops to demonstrate techniques for improving soil fertility – in both an attractive and beneficial way. Additionally, the programs planned at Bridge Gardens during the Spring, Summer and Fall all provide an educational component tied to sustainable garden and living practices.

Bridge Gardens will open officially for the 2013 season on Saturday, April 6, 2013 and will be open weekends through the end of October. Summer hours for Bridge Gardens, which include Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, will begin Memorial Day weekend.

Bridge Gardens covers over five acres and consists of an Inner Garden and an Outer Garden. Developed first, the Inner Garden features a large, meticulously-trimmed knot garden surrounded by beds of 180 different culinary, medicinal, ornamental, and textile and dyeing herbs. Overlooking these plantings, the garden house is the manager's residence/education center. In the Outer Garden, the favorite attraction is a collection of antique and modern roses. Bridge Gardens also contains animal topiaries, a lavender, perennial beds and borders, a water garden, woodland paths, a hidden bamboo room, double hedgerows of privet with viewing ports, and specimen shrubs and trees.

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 concert with landowners, local government, partner 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 Southold, Cutchogue, Bridgehampton and Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. The public is invited to enjoy a wide variety of fun and educational activities through the Trust's "Connections" programs which strive to connect people to the natural lands of Long Island's East End. *A common misperception 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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