



## OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PECONIC LAND TRUST



**For immediate release**

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**OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND  
PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCE  
CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PARTNERSHIP  
ON LAND ADJACENT TO DAM POND IN EAST MARION**

**March 5, 2012. Southampton, New York.** Ruth Ann Bramson, President of the Oysterponds Historical Society (*the Society*) and John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust (*the Trust*), announced the completion of a unique conservation and historic preservation project and collaboration that includes the acquisition of nearly 3 acres of land by the Trust, the protection of two historic houses, the addition of nearly 13 acres of perpetually protected land and nearly ¼ mile of protected shoreline to the existing assemblage of private and public conservation lands on and around Dam Pond in East Marion, New York. This conservation and preservation effort began with the bequest of two residential properties to the Society by the Estate of Sonja Stein in 2011. The generous gift was made with the express intent of maintaining the historical integrity of the residences on the properties, while also protecting, forever, the conservation values of the grounds as a nature and wildlife preserve. A significant donation to the Trust by the Estate of J. Philip Anderegg made its participation possible.

Ms. Stein, a supporter of both not-for-profit organizations, acquired the two properties between 1971 and the late 1980s. Each property contains a unique, historically significant, single-family house, which recalls the era when large summer houses were being built alongside the farms of eastern Long Island in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The properties also contain scenic open lands, meadows, woodland and natural habitats worthy of conservation. The northerly and westerly boundaries of the property are contiguous to Dam Pond and the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond, which is part of an assemblage of conservation properties totaling over 100 acres that has been perpetually protected by the Trust working in partnership with private landowners, the Town of Southold, and Suffolk County.

Speaking on behalf of the Oysterponds Historical Society's Board of Trustees, President Ruth Ann Bramson said, "The Society has been honored by Sonja Stein's generous gift and by the faith she placed in us to be good stewards of her beloved estate. We reached out to the Trust to advise us in crafting a conservation and preservation plan for this unique property because of their expertise and extensive experience with preservation on the East End. With this partnership we are able to assure that this property, which is environmentally and historically important to the community of Oysterponds, will be protected in perpetuity, just as Ms. Stein wished for it to be. "

"The Trust is pleased to be able to assist the Society on this important conservation effort. Dam Pond and the surrounding area is a special place that we have helped to protect over the years. It is a *conservation jewel* that defines the North Fork's *unique sense of place*," added Trust President, John v.H. Halsey.

The comprehensive conservation and historic preservation plan involves three distinct

components covering the two properties bequeathed to the Society by the estate of Sonja Stein. The Trust acquired from the Society a 2.7-acre parcel on Dam Pond to be known as the Sonja Stein Preserve. The funds to acquire the property were donated to the Trust from the Estate of J. Philip Anderegg\*\*, authorized by executor Arthur Tasker. This portion of the property will be owned and managed by the Trust as a nature preserve. In addition, conservation and preservation easements were placed on each of the two residential properties. Now that the conservation and preservation plan has been implemented, the Society will be considering a variety of options regarding the current and future uses of the property. This gift provides the Society with a unique opportunity to advance its mission and expand programs to serve the entire Oysterponds community.

“Because of my life-long connection to the “East End” and my friend Philip’s appreciation for its beauty from visiting here, I wanted very much to support preservation here. And since the Dam Pond area is such a spectacularly beautiful place, it was an easy choice to make to support the Trust’s purchase of this portion of the Stein properties,” said Mr. Tasker, in describing the donation from the Anderegg Estate in support of the Trust’s acquisition of the Stein Preserve. Mr. Anderegg’s intent to have his estate support conservation of “forever wild” lands fits well with the intentions of Ms. Stein for her estate. (*See below for more information on the Anderegg Estate.*)

“This extraordinary partnership provides substantial community benefits, and most importantly, furthers the conservation and preservation goals expressed by Sonja Stein in her gift to the Society. We feel honored that they chose the Trust as a partner in this important project. We are also grateful to Arthur Tasker and the Estate of J. Philip Anderegg for their generous donation that made this

acquisition possible,” added Trust Vice President Tim Caufield.

**About Sonja Stein:** Ms. Stein, who was born in Germany and came to the U.S. as a young adult, became an East Marion resident in 1971. She and her husband, Walter, owned a tool and die company and lived in the Manhasset area in Nassau County. Ms. Stein acquired the westernmost property, previously owned by the Ward family, in 1971. She purchased the adjoining parcel, once the home of the Reybine family, in the late 1980s. The Ward house was built in 1896 and the Reybine house in 1900. Both are listed as historic structures by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities. Ms. Stein had a deep love for the North Fork and for the historic character and natural beauty of her property in East Marion.

**About Oysterponds Historical Society:** The Oysterponds Historical Society preserves and interprets the history of the Orient and East Marion community and its heritage through programs, exhibitions, publications and assistance to researchers. Programs include free lectures and exhibitions, traditional American craft workshops, field trip and outreach programs for schools, including a recent collaborative oral history project with the Oysterponds Elementary School, and summer activities for kids. Founded in 1944, the volunteer-driven organization maintains a growing archive and museum collection of over 70,000 items documenting more than three hundred years of the community’s past. The Society preserves and manages seven historic structures in the heart of the Orient Historic District, including the 19<sup>th</sup> century Village House boarding house, which the Society is currently stabilizing and restoring with matching funds from a New York State Environmental Protection Fund Historic Preservation Grant. Also in the Society’s care are the 18<sup>th</sup> century Webb House museum, two historic cemeteries, and

Poquatuck Park. For more information about the Society visit [www.oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org) or call 631.323.2480.

**About J. Philip Anderegg Estate:** Under the direction of the estate executor, Arthur Tasker, the J. Philip Anderegg Estate is providing funding for the purchase of land to be kept forever wild, or to an organization whose mission and goals were aligned. In 2009, Mr. Tasker, a Greenport native, donated funding to the Trust for the acquisition of 19 acres along the Long Island Sound in Riverhead. The property, now known as the Anderegg Preserve, is adjacent to the Trust's Granttham/Reeve Preserve, creating nearly 70 acres of nature preserve along the Sound. In addition to the Trust, the Anderegg Estate has supported conservation efforts in Adirondack State Park (New York), Baxter State Park (Maine), and a woodland preserve in Tiverton, Rhode Island.

**About the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond:** Between 1989 and 2002, Peconic Land Trust, in cooperation with private landowners, the Town of Southold and Suffolk County helped to protect a total of over 100 acres in an area of Southold Town designated as the Dam Pond Maritime Reserve – a portion of which was renamed the Ruth Oliva Preserve at Dam Pond in September 2010. Ms. Oliva, former Southold Town Councilwoman and President of the North Fork Environmental Council, was a staunch supporter of conservation across the East End.

The conservation of these lands was accomplished through the use of a combination of tools and programs including: gifts of private conservation easements to the Trust, gifts of land to the Trust and the final step, the acquisition of the property assemblage by the Suffolk County and Southold Town. The Dam Pond Maritime Reserve is included in the

New York State Open Space Plan, and is part of the federally designated National Estuary Program. Nine distinct ecological communities occur at this property, including the rare maritime red cedar forest and four species of extremely rare plants.

**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](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org) or call 631.283.3195.

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