

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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BRIDGE GARDENS SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

*The Gardens open Wednesdays through Sundays.
The 2014 season will include programs on
sustainable gardening, watercolor art classes, and children's photography and art.
Fridays at Six Music at the Gardens will be on July 18 and August 22.
In the Garden House: works by the artists of Plein Air Peconic.*

MAY 16, 2014. SOUTHAMPTON, NY. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, and Rick Bogusch, Garden Manager, announced the summer season at Bridge Gardens. A hidden gem in the hamlet of Bridgehampton, Bridge Gardens was donated to the Peconic Land Trust in 2008 by Jim Kilpatric and Harry Neyens.

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 conservation mission of the Peconic Land Trust. To that end, the programming at the Gardens is multi-faceted, including sustainable gardening programs and artistic expression. Most significantly, the gardens management under Rick Bogusch and his staff – Irene Berkowitz, Steve McCafferty and Bill Conklin – and volunteers has adopted sustainable gardening practices that are easily adaptable for the home gardener, including chemical-free lawn care, native grasses and

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plants (many of which are being grown from seed), and organic vegetable gardening.

The gardens segmentation of spaces – the herb garden, the vegetable garden, the perennial beds, the woodland gardens, rose garden, water garden and hedges – provide visitors with manageable demonstrations that can be applied at home. Throughout the season, Rick will also lead discussions on aspects of garden development – including composting, rose care, herbs and lawn care. Visitors are encouraged to seek Rick out when touring the gardens – he’s available to answer questions.

“The gardens are changing all the time – from the early blooms of daffodils, to the flowering onions, to the trees, hedges, roses and perennial flower beds and vegetable crops. I encourage everyone to visit often throughout the seasons to see what’s in bloom and to not miss a thing,” said Garden Manager Rick Bogusch.

Connections: Summer Programs at Bridge Gardens

- Saturday, May 17: Composting Workshop with Rick Bogusch
- Saturday, June 21: Wine and Roses Talk with Rick Bogusch
- Fridays, July & August: Watercolor Classes with Lois Bender
- Wednesdays, July 9, 16, 23: Photography Workshop for Teens & Tweens with Ellen Watson
- Friday, July 17: Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens with Charles Certain and Friends
- Saturday, July 26: Herb Garden Talk with Rick Bogusch
- Friday, August 15: Sustainable Lawn Care Panel moderated by Rick Bogusch
- Thursday, August 7: Nature Sketchbook for Families with Lois Bender

- Thursday, August 14: Children's Clay Art Workshop with Joyce Raimondo
- Friday, August 22: Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens with Joe Hampton and the Kingpins

Paintings and Photographs by the artists of *Plein Air Peconic* will also be on exhibit all summer long in the Garden House, learn more about their work at www.PleinAirPeconic.com. Jeff Heatley of *Art and Architecture Quarterly/East End* is spending the year photographing the gardens through the season. Check out his blog at: www.aageastend.com.

Hours of Operations

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fridays (beginning May 23): 10:00 a.m. to dusk.

Wednesdays & Thursdays (beginning May 30): 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10/adults; \$20/family.

Seasonal memberships: \$50/individuals; \$75/family.

(Family admission/membership covers 4 individuals.)

Corporate memberships are also available.

The Gardens are also available for group tours.

For more information, contact Thomas Hobson at the Trust's office at 631.283.3195 or email BridgeGardens@PeconicLandTrust.org. Visit us online at www.PeconicLandTrust.org for more information on *Connections* programs and the Friday music series.

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.

Since operated under the auspices of the Trust, Bridge Gardens has grown as a horticultural oasis in the heart of Bridgehampton, and has been the setting for a broad array of cultural and educational programs, including its annual lecture series. 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.

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 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, 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

August 1, 2013 was the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Peconic Land Trust, which was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with landowners, communities, municipalities, partner organizations, and donors, to conserve approximately 11,000 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 (Bridge Gardens), Southold (Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm and Shellfisher Preserve) and Amagansett (Quail Hill Farm) 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, 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 for the protection of farmland, open space, and community character. For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

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