

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release
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PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES THE SALE OF 13.2 ACRES OF PROTECTED FARMLAND IN MATTITUCK TO CHRIS AND HOLLY BROWDER OF BROWDER'S BIRDS

The Browders, who were leasing land for their pasture poultry operation at the Ag Center at Charnews Farm in Southold, become the first of the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative farmers to transition to their own home farm.

February 8, 2013. Southampton, New York. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announced the sale of 13.2 acres of protected farmland located north of Oregon Road in Mattituck, to Chris and Holly Browder of Browder's Birds. The farmland (*part of the Trust's Oregon Road Farm*) was conserved in 2006 when the Trust purchased the land from Randy and Angela Shur and simultaneously sold the development rights to the Town of Southold. It will now become the new home of the Browders' pasture-raised poultry operation.

The Browders, one of the first lessees through the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative, began their poultry operation on five acres at the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm in 2010.

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“This is an incredibly fulfilling day for the Peconic Land Trust,” said Trust President John v.H. Halsey. “We could not be happier to work with Chris and Holly and to be part of their farming success. This exemplifies exactly what the Trust and its supporters hope to accomplish – the long-term protection of farmland in active production by a working farm, in this case one that is providing food to local communities on Long Island.”

“Purchasing our own farm in Mattituck is a dream come true. We will combine this farm land with the contiguous house that we recently purchased to restore the same 16.5 acre farm that was subdivided in 2006. We intend to use this land to continue to grow our certified organic pastured egg and poultry farming operation. In addition, we hope to diversify into other small livestock, small scale vegetable production and certain perennial crops.” said Chris Browder.

“The Browders are a wonderful example of how the Farms for the Future Initiative was designed to work – to help start-up farm operations establish themselves, and then assist them in finding farmland that is suitable for their needs going forward. This has been an incredible win-win for the Browders, the Trust, and the East End. We look forward to continuing to assist them going forward as needed,” said Dan Heston, the Trust’s North Fork Stewardship Manager.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to the Peconic Land Trust for helping us get started in our farming business. By leasing land and portions of the Charnews barn, we

were able to launch our farm with minimal capital. After getting our feet wet as new farmers these past three years, we are now willing to take the plunge and purchase our own farm on the North Fork. We are thankful that an organization like the Peconic Land Trust exists to help establish new farmers and assist them as needed along the way,” added Chris Browder.

About Browder’s Birds

Launched in 2010 by Chris and Holly Browder, Browder’s Birds raises pastured organic chickens for meat and eggs. Along with their poultry operation, the Browders have developed a line of specialty rubs, and they also grow vegetable crops that complement their poultry offerings.

About the Oregon Road Farm

The Oregon Road Farm property is located on the western edge of the Oregon Road farm belt, and is comprised of two farmland parcels – including this 13.2 acre parcel formerly owned by the Shurs. Both of the unrestricted parcels were acquired by the Trust, and development rights were simultaneously sold to the Town of Southold. The northerly parcel initially totaled 16.7 acres and included a farmhouse, that was subdivided and sold on a 3.5-acre lot prior to the Trust’s acquisition (*the Browders recently acquired the farmhouse under a separate transaction*). The remaining 13.2 acres, which were planted with a mix of traditional row crops and nursery stock, were protected. The Trust removed the nursery stock shortly after purchasing the property in July, 2006. The 12.5-acre southerly parcel fronts Oregon Road and includes a small two-story house. The

Trust acquired it through a bargain sale in March 2007; 10 acres of farmland were protected and 2.5 acres surrounding the house were left with development rights intact. The Trust is currently marketing the southerly 12.5-acre property to interested buyers. The purchase of both properties was funded with the Trust's revolving fund, The Peter J. Sharp Trust Fund for the Environment.

About the Trust's Farms for the Future Initiative

With the help of its supporters, the Trust has begun to identify ways to help new farm operations get off the ground and established growers to expand their businesses with an eye toward their long-term economic health and viability. The formalization of the program is the Trust's **Farms for the Future Initiative**. This initiative includes farmland leases, incubator programs, and sales of protected farmland, some with overlay easements that further limit non-agricultural activities and assure its affordability to farmers in the future. The majority of the Farms for the Future lessees operate on Peconic Land Trust protected farmland either at the Agricultural Center at Charnews Farm in Southold or at Quail Hill Farm/Deborah Light Preserve in Amagansett.

Objectives of the Farms for the Future Initiative:

- Keep conserved agricultural land actively farmed
- Create opportunities for farms to start-up and/or expand their commercial agricultural operations
- Promote the diversity of farming and farmers on Long Island
- Encourage food production farming
- Ensure that farmland is available and affordable for farmers

To learn more about this program, please contact Director of Conservation Planning, Peri Grandone, at 631.283.3195 or PGrandone@PeconicLandTrust.org.

About the Peconic Land Trust

2013 is the 30th Anniversary year for the Peconic Land Trust, which was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with landowners, donors, 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 Cutchogue, Southold, Bridgehampton 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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