



PECONIC LAND TRUST

Bridge Gardens

For immediate release

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**PECONIC LAND TRUST KICKS OFF ITS
SIXTH ANNUAL SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL FARMERS
AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCERS HOSTED BY BRIDGE GARDENS**

“Long Island Grown II: Food and Beverage Artisans at Work” begins on March 1, and focuses on growers and producers of some of the most innovative and dynamic food and beverages on Long Island.

FEBRUARY 6, 2015. 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 sixth annual conversations with local experts, this year once again focusing on local farmers and food and beverage producers. “Long Island Grown” has expanded in recent years to feature a wide variety of products designed to meet an increasing demand for unique “value added” products. The 2015 series focuses on some of the innovative and entrepreneurial products coming from our community, and demonstrates how our locally grown products are evolving to meet the changing consumer tastes. This year’s presentations, in a three-person panel style, will be moderated by Laura Donnelly, local pastry chef, author, and food editor of the *East Hampton Star*.

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All presentations begin at 2:00 p.m. and are held at Bridge Gardens, located at 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton. Refreshments follow each presentation, and attendees are encouraged to mingle with panelists following each program. Admission is \$25/person or \$20/current members of Bridge Gardens. Tickets for the series may be purchased at \$90/person, or \$70/current members of Bridge Gardens. Thanks to our media sponsor, *Edible East End*, purchasers of the full series will receive a one-year subscription to the *Edible* magazine (*East End, Long Island, Manhattan or Brooklyn*) of their choice. Please join us for what is sure to be an exciting program exploring unique agricultural operations and what drives these individuals to farm and produce on Long Island. This program sold out last year – Pre-registration and Pre-payment for the lectures is required. To register, contact the Peconic Land Trust at 631.283.3195 or email to events@PeconicLandTrust.org.

The schedule for 2015 is as follows:

Sunday, March 1: “The Drink” featuring apple grower Jennifer Halsey of Milk Pail Farm, hard cider maker Roman Roth of Wölffer Estate Vineyard and Richard Scoffier, Food and Beverage Director from Honest Man Restaurants.

Sunday, March 15: “The Appetizer” with microgreen grower Brendan Davison of Good Water Farms, baker Carissa Waechter of Carissa’s Breads, and pickle maker Jeri Woodhouse of Taste of the North Fork.

Sunday, March 29: “The Entrée” featuring livestock farmers Doug Corwin of Crescent Duck Farm, Tom Geppell of Eight Hands Farm, and Hal Goodale of Goodale Farms.

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Sunday, April 19: “The Dessert” featuring Chef Steve Amaral of North Fork Chocolate Company, fig grower Tom Stevenson of Oysterponds Farm, and honey producer Mary Woltz of Bees Needs.

About Bridge Gardens

Bridge Gardens was established in 1988 by Harry Neyens and Jim Kilpatric, who designed and installed the gardens over the ensuing 20 years. 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, tripled in size. The vegetables are grown organically and are mostly donated to local food pantries. 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.

In 2014, the Trust began a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and the Perfect Earth Project to provide educational services to the public regarding sustainable lawn care management. This program included offering advice on sustainable, toxin-free lawn care on site one day a week with expert Paul Wagner of Treewise and Soilfoodweb NY as well as establishing an email – lawnexpert@peconiclandtrust.org – to answer questions. Paul will be returning to Bridge Gardens on a weekly basis beginning on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, from 2-5pm, to answer questions. The partnership also worked together to install demonstration lawn beds at Bridge Gardens in the fall of 2014. These demonstration beds will be a focus of educational programs in 2015, and can provide both homeowners and landscape professionals with advice on sustainable lawn care practices through this practical application.

Bridge Gardens will open officially for the 2015 season on Saturday, April 4, 2015 and will be open weekends through the end of October. Summer hours, 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, along with the expanded vegetable garden. 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, double hedgerows of privet with viewing ports, and specimen shrubs and trees.

About the Peconic Land Trust

Founded in 1983, the Peconic Land Trust conserves 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 over 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 collects and distributes 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 at closings and then redistributed to the five East End Towns for conservation purposes.* For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

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