

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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**CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY
AT BRIDGE GARDENS
ON FRIDAY, MAY 8
BRIDGE GARDENS SUMMER HOURS
OFFICIALLY BEGIN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:**

*The 2015 season will include programs on
Lawn & Garden Advice, lawn demonstration plots & sustainable gardening workshops
in partnership with Perfect Earth Project, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk
County, the Peconic Estuary Program and Treewise Organics.
Also, new community gardens, garden-to-table food demonstrations
and art classes for adults and children.
Fridays at Six Music at the Gardens on July 17 and August 21.*

April 30, 2015. 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.

Join us for a special day: National Public Gardens Day, Friday, May 8. Bridge Gardens is partnering with fellow public gardens – Madoo Conservancy and LongHouse Reserve – for free 1-hour tours of each of the gardens. Tour schedule: 10:30 am at LongHouse

Reserve; 1:00 pm at Madoo Conservancy and 3:00 at Bridge Gardens. Tour reservations can be made by contacting the Peconic Land Trust at 631.283.3195 or Events@PeconicLandTrust.org.

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, through partnerships with the Perfect Earth Project, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and the Peconic Estuary Program, Bridge Gardens is offering homeowners and professional landscapers advice and programs on sustainable gardening practices that are easily adaptable, including sustainable lawn care, native grasses and plants (many of which are being grown from seed), and organic vegetable gardening. These programs are highlighted by a weekly **Free Garden Advice** program with Treewise Organics' Paul Wagner. Wagner will be at Bridge Gardens every Wednesday through October, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, to answer questions on sustainable lawn care. Questions can also be emailed to LawnExpert@PeconicLandTrust.org.

While there, visitors to the gardens can see how the lawn demonstration beds, which were planted in the fall of 2014, are faring. The 5,000 sq. ft. demonstration area feature three locations -- full sun, partial sun, full shade – with four types of seeds used in each area: rye, fine fescue, tall fescue, and Kentucky blue grass. The diversity of location, seed

and tillage provides a unique opportunity for homeowners to understand which grasses could offer the best solution in their landscape.

New in 2015: Community Gardens. The gardens will be home for 15 community gardeners this summer. Come and see what they are growing!

Over the course of the late Spring, Summer and Fall, Bridge Gardens will offer many educational programs, as well as opportunities for the public to explore their creative expression using the gardens as inspiration. Our Connections calendar at Bridge Gardens includes:

Connections: Programs at Bridge Gardens

- Every Wednesday: Free Lawn Care Advice with Paul Wagner of Treewise Organics, 2:00 to 5:00 pm.
- Friday, May 8: National Public Gardens Day Tour
- Saturday, May 9: Building Your Soil, From Compost to Fertilizer with Paul Wagner of Treewise Organics
- Saturdays, May 9, 16 & 23: Watercolor Classes with artist/educator Lois Bender
- Saturday, May 23: Photography Lecture with Dency Kane, in partnership with the Southampton Rose Society
- Saturday, June 6: Secrets of Growing a “Queen of Show” Hybrid Tea with Peter Bertrand, in partnership with the Southampton Rose Society
- Saturday, June 13: Managing Pests and Diseases of the Lawn with Tamson Yeh of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

- Friday, July 17: Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens with Charles Certain and Friends
- Thursday, July 23: Southampton Chamber Networking Night
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- Saturday, July 25: Attracting Pollinators & Beneficial Insects, plus Native Plant Sale with Vicki Bustamante
- Thursday, July 30: Cooking demonstration using vegetables from the gardens with Chef Peter Berley
- July & August: 4-part class on illustrations using the gardens for inspiration with artist Cynthia Wells
- Sunday, August 9: Managing Water Resources in the Home Landscape with Robert Boyle of RB Irrigation
- Saturday, August 15: Planning and Managing a Sustainable Lawn with Rick Bogusch, Tamson Yeh, Paul Wagner, and Sean O'Neill of Perfect Earth Project
- Friday, August 21: Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens with Joe Hampton and the Kingpins
- Saturday, September 12: Enjoying Native Grasses in the Home Garden with Edwina von Gal of Perfect Earth Project
- Saturday, October 17: Bayscaping and Rain Gardens with Sherryll Jones of the Peconic Estuary Program.
- Sunday, December 6: Holiday Wreath Workshop with Diana Conklin

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* spent 2014 photographing the gardens through the season. Check out his blog at: www.aageastend.com.

Also new in 2015: Bridge Gardens Notecards. A series of eight cards with images from Jeff Heatley's 2014/2015 photographic series. The images represent Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter at Bridge Gardens and include images of the landscape as well as up-close images of botanicals/plants representative of the season. \$12/set of 8 cards. The notecard series can be purchased online at www.PeconicLandTrust.org or by calling 631.283.3195.

Bridge Gardens Hours of Operations

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

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

Fridays (beginning May 22): 10:00 a.m. to dusk.

Wednesdays & Thursdays (beginning May 27): 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 about Bridge Gardens, 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 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 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 returned to Bridge Gardens on a weekly basis beginning 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 officially opened 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, 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,

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woodland paths, double hedgerows of privet with viewing ports, and specimen shrubs and trees.

About the Peconic Land Trust

Founded in 1983, 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 Trust depends primarily upon private donations to support its conservation work. A common misperception, however, is that the Peconic Land Trust collects and distributes the monies raised through the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund (the CPF is also referred to as the 2% land transfer tax or the Peconic Land Tax). This is NOT the case. The CPF is a public program managed by each of 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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