



PECONIC LAND TRUST

Bridge Gardens

For immediate release

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

“Long Island Grown III: Food and Beverage Artisans at Work” begins on March 6, and focuses on growers, producers & chefs making some of the most innovative and dynamic food and beverages on Long Island.

FEBRUARY 5, 2016. 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 seventh annual conversations with local experts, this year once again focusing on local farmers, food and beverage producers and chefs. “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 2016 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 2016 is as follows:

Sunday, March 6: “The Cocktail Party” featuring Vaughan Cutillo of Montauk Brewing Company, Michael Kontokosta of Kontokosta Winery and Chef Noah Schwartz of Noah’s.

Sunday, March 20: “The Appetizer” with Nadia Ernestus of Hamptons Brine, Mirijana Ujkic of Wild Feast Foods, and Chef Tom Schaudel of The Petulant Wino.

Sunday, April 3: “The Entrée” featuring Patty Gentry of Early Girl Farm, Rich King of North Sea Farms, Chef Joe Realmuto of Nick & Toni’s, and Ed Tuccio of North Quarter Farm.

Sunday, April 17: “The Dessert” featuring Alexander Damianos of DuckWalk Vineyards , Patricia DiVello of Patty’s Berries and Bunches, and Tom Wickham of Wickham’s Fruit Farm.

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 and vegetables 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 gardening 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 Greener Pastures Organics as well as establishing an email – lawnextpert@peconiclandtrust.org – to answer questions. Paul will be returning to Bridge Gardens on a weekly basis beginning on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 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 2016 season on Saturday, April 2, 2016 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 native and exotic grasses, 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 nearly 12,000 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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