

# PECONIC LAND TRUST



**For immediate release**

Contact: Yvette DeBow-Salsedo  
631.283.3195

**CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY  
AT BRIDGE GARDENS  
ON FRIDAY, MAY 6  
BRIDGE GARDENS SUMMER HOURS  
OFFICIALLY BEGIN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

*The 2016 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 Greener Pastures Organics.  
Also, community gardens, garden-to-table food demonstrations  
and art classes for adults and children.  
Fridays at Six Music at the Gardens on July 15 and August 19.*

**April 1, 2016. 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 6. Bridge Gardens is partnering with fellow public gardens – Madoo Conservancy and LongHouse Reserve – for free 1-hour tours at each of the gardens. Tour schedule:

10:30 am at Bridge Gardens; 1:00 pm at Madoo Conservancy and 3:00 pm at LongHouse Reserve. Space is limited, reservations are requested. Tour reservations can be made by contacting the Peconic Land Trust at 631.283.3195 or [Events@PeconicLandTrust.org](mailto:Events@PeconicLandTrust.org). Special addition in 2016: The Living Room c/o The Maidstone, located at 207 Main Street, East Hampton, will be offering a special prix fixe dinner for tour participants. Additional information on dinner can be found at [www.themairstone.com/restaurant](http://www.themairstone.com/restaurant).

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 environmentally sensitive 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 Greener Pastures Organics' Paul Wagner. Wagner will be at Bridge Gardens every Wednesday beginning April 6 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](mailto: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 features 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.

Bridge Gardens is also home for a new Community Garden, which was installed in 2015. In 2016, we have expanded the garden plots from 16 to 20 – and all have been rented for the 2016 season!

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 popular Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens will return on July 15 and August 19. And NEW in 2016, we will have a monthly Fridays at Four Tasting and Tour on June 24, July 29, August 26 and September 30 – featuring guided walks throughout the garden, led by Garden Manager Rick Bogusch, paired with beverage tastings from local producers.

### **Connections: 2016 Programs at Bridge Gardens**

- Beginning April 6: Every Wednesday: Free Lawn Care Advice with Paul Wagner of Greener Pastures Organics, 2:00 to 5:00 pm.
- Saturdays, in April, May, and June, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: Watercolor Classes with artist/educator Lois Bender
- Saturday, April 9, 11:30 am: Getting the Vegetable Garden Started

- Friday, May 6, 10:30 am: National Public Gardens Day Tour
- Saturday, May 14, 10:00 am: Steps to a Toxin Free Lawn and Landscape with Paul Wagner of Greener Pastures Organics and Sean O'Neill of Perfect Earth Project
- Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and May 29, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm: Pop Up Art Show and Sale to Benefit the Garden.
- Saturday, June 11, 10:00 am: What's a Buffer Garden and Why Should I Care? With Tamson Yeh of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
- NEW: June 24, 4:00 pm: Fridays at Four, Tasting and Tour featuring wine from Channing Daughters Winery of Bridgehampton
- Friday, July 15, 6:00 pm: Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens with Charles Certain and Friends
- NEW: July 29, 4:00 pm: Fridays at Four, Tasting and Tour *tasting partner to be announce soon.*
- Thursday, August 4, 10:00 a.m.: Propagation Basics and Beyond with Mark Bridgen of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
- Friday, August 5: Garden to Table for Kids program with the Wellness Foundation
- NEW: August 26: Fridays at Four, Tasting and Tour featuring wine from Wolffer Estate Vineyard of Sagaponack
- Friday, August 19: Fridays at Six Music in the Gardens with Joe Hampton and the Kingpins
- NEW: September 30: Fridays at Four, Tasting and Tour featuring local craft beer provided by Montauk Brewery
- Sunday, December 4: Holiday Wreath Workshop with Diana Conklin

Stay tuned, additional programming at Bridge Gardens will be announced in the coming weeks.

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](http://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.aaqeastend.com](http://www.aaqeastend.com).

**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 photographs of the landscape as well as up-close images of botanical plants representative of the season. \$12/set of 8 cards. The notecard series can be purchased online at [www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://www.PeconicLandTrust.org) or by calling 631.283.3195.

**Bridge Gardens Hours of Operation:**

Saturdays & Sundays (April 2 through October 30): 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fridays (beginning May 27 through September 2): 10:00 a.m. to dusk.

Wednesdays & Thursdays (beginning June 1 through September 1): 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](mailto:BridgeGardens@PeconicLandTrust.org).

Visit us online at [www.PeconicLandTrust.org](http://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 operating 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. 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, many of the programs planned at Bridge Gardens during the Spring, Summer and Fall 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 Greener Pastures Organics as well as establishing an email – [lawnexpert@peconiclandtrust.org](mailto:lawnexpert@peconiclandtrust.org) – to answer questions. This program continues, with Wagner at Bridge Gardens every Wednesday from April through October from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. 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 2016, and can provide both homeowners and landscape professionals with advice on sustainable lawn care practices through this practical application.

Bridge Gardens officially opens 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, 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 a variety of perennial beds and borders, a water garden, native and exotic grasses, winding 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 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 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](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org) or call 631.283.3195.

#####

--next--

*Page xx*  
*Peconic Land Trust/Bridge Gardens 2016 Season*