

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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PECONIC LAND TRUST RECEIVES DONATION OF .7 ACRES OF NATURAL LANDS FROM D'URSO FAMILY IN AMAGANSETT

FEBRUARY 2, 2016. SOUTHAMPTON, NY. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, is pleased to announce that the D'Urso family has donated .7 acres of pristine natural habitat on the eastern edge of Amagansett. The land will be added to the Trust's adjacent Ship Wreck Preserve increasing the size of the preserve to about 10 acres.

"All of us at the Trust thank the D'Urso family for choosing to conserve this fragile and sensitive piece of natural habitat. It is through the generosity of landowners and communities that conservation opportunities such as this become a reality," said John v.H. Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust.

Adjacent to Napeague State Park, the newly expanded Ship Wreck Preserve includes upland pitch pine woodlands and coastal dunes filled with native flora and fauna. The preserve is a known migration point for monarch butterflies who rely on the nectar of seaside goldenrod – a protected New York State flower -- that flourishes on this preserve.

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Background on Ship Wreck Preserve

Through several previous transactions, including gifts by an anonymous donor in 2004 and the Ocean Estates Property Owners Association in 2006, the recent D'Urso donation increases the size of the preserve to about 10 acres on Ship Wreck Drive in the Town of East Hampton. The D'Urso property had originally been subdivided as a single-family building lot in the Ocean Estates subdivision.

Ship Wreck Preserve contains dune and beach vegetation as well as pine trees and other native flora and fauna. It is in the vicinity of other preserved land, including Napeague State Park, which is adjacent to the east.

In addition to providing habitat for the seaside goldenrod and monarchs and migratory song birds, the preserve includes a coastal dune community that supports many species of plants and animals, including bayberry (shrub), seabeach amaranth (flower), and birds including the snowy owl, black tern, piping plover, and tree swallow, among others. We are thankful to all for their foresight to protect this rich, but fragile environment.

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, beachfront, and historic properties 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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