

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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QUAIL HILL FARM

SUMMER SEASON BEGINS ON JUNE 4, 2016

APRIL 15, 2016. SOUTHAMPTON, NY. Peconic Land Trust's Quail Hill Farm, one of the oldest Community Supported Agriculture farms in the country, is getting ready for the 2016 summer season and shares are now available.

"Each year we expand our acreage in cultivation and continue to improve our soil. You can taste it: 26 years of careful attention to this Amagansett silt loam using organic practices," said Scott Chaskey, Director, Quail Hill Farm.

Established in 1990, Quail Hill Farm is on 35 acres generously donated to the Trust by Deborah Ann Light in Amagansett, NY. Over 500 varieties of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit are available to the farm's share members to harvest from the fields and the farmstand on Tuesdays and Saturdays from June through the end of October.

Over the farm's 26 year history, over 120 farm apprentices have been trained –

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with many of those engaged in farming today. The farm welcomed a new crew of advanced apprentices in March, joining Scott, Farm Manager Layton Guenther and Nick Berini who returns as Assistant Farm Manager. Training apprentices and providing share members with informational resources on the issues of soil health, our seed supply, food security and sustainable, and organic farming practices is a central part of the farm's mission. And each year, Quail Hill Farm signs onto the Northeast Organic Farming Association, New York (NOFA-NY) Farmer's Pledge "to sustain the land in healthy condition for future generations."

Throughout the summer season, Quail Hill Farm provides for its members a wide assortment of fresh, local organic produce – from rhubarb, raspberries, peas, potatoes, carrots tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, okra, green beans, summer squash, lettuce, onions, garlic, wheatberries and more -- as well as provides a congenial setting for members to gather, share recipes, and enjoy the beauty of this magical place. Member activities include a member breakfast and pot-luck supper where the star is the bounty from the fields.

The Trust also hosts educational workshops and events at Quail Hill Farm that are open to the public. In 2016 these programs include a seedling planting (May 21), a discussion on permaculture (June 18), a talk with beekeeper Mary Woltz of Bees Needs (July 19), and more, including our annual searches for ladybugs!

Since 2012, the Trust has hosted at Quail Hill Farm scientists from Cornell University as part of their “Lost Ladybug Project” – where *citizen scientists* are invited to the fields of the farm in search of the elusive 9-spotted ladybug. The farm is the only known location in New York State where the 9-spotted ladybugs have been found since 1983, discovered by our citizen scientists during our first program in 2012. Among the several dozen species of ladybugs found in New York state, the endangered nine-spotted ladybug (*coccinella novemnotata*) was designated the official state insect symbol of New York in 1989. We look forward to welcoming the team back this summer in July.

For a listing of all Connections programs, visit our online calendar:

<http://www.peconiclandtrust.org/upcoming.html>

Quail Hill Farm Summer Share:

Harvest Days: Tuesdays and Saturdays
Season: June 4 into November
Fees: \$925/family summer share
 \$465/single summer share

A limited number of box shares are also available for a once a week pick-up:

 \$700/family box share
 \$350/single box share

The farm also offers Winter Shares, which begin the week before Thanksgiving and run until late February.

For more information, visit www.peconiclandtrust.org/quail_hill_farm.html or call 631.283.3195.

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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