

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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Mill Pond: Solar-Powered Water Circulators Installed

Water Mill, NY, May 3, 2007. Four SolarBee water circulators were installed today in 92-acre Mill Pond, one of the largest freshwater ponds on the South Fork, with the promise of eliminating thick blooms of blue-green algae that threaten to crowd out fish and plant life. The solar-powered SolarBees, which look like buoys on the surface, disturb the still water which algae needs to bloom.

A private/public cooperative effort. Members of Friends of Lake Nowedonah, the environmental association comprised of homeowners and residents of Mill Pond, have provided all the funding for this pilot effort with the assistance of the Peconic Land Trust. Given its involvement in the stewardship of agricultural and natural resources, the Trust assisted Mill Pond residents by coordinating a private fundraising effort. The Trust views the Mill Pond remediation project as an important opportunity to help restore and protect one of Water Mill's natural resources. "We are delighted to assist in this conservation effort to preserve the natural beauty of Mill Pond, home to freshwater bass, and many varieties of bird life, including a large egret population and ospreys," said John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust. The Peconic Land Trust has been protecting Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage for over 23 years.

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The Southampton Town Trustees, who oversee Mill Pond and all other Town water bodies, have given their permission for the installation of the SolarBees as a test for eliminating blue-green algae that can plague lakes and ponds. The SolarBees are being rented for the first year to monitor their success. Under the auspices of the Southampton Town Trustees, water-quality testing measurements will be taken by Christopher J. Gobler, Associate Professor, Marine Sciences Research Center, Stony Brook University. If the SolarBees perform as expected in limiting blue-green algae, the four circulators will be purchased with private donations for long-term use. Southampton Trustee Scott Strough expressed hope that this is a viable solution. "It's great that the Mill Pond residents were willing to step up to preserve Mill Pond. We are especially glad to have found a solar-powered, eco-friendly solution to a chronic problem."

Steve Abramson, Co-chair of Friends of Lake Nowedonah, said that half the property owners contributed to the first year's rental. "We will need broader support to purchase the equipment next year," he said, "but Mill Pond feeds into Mecox Bay and this is a community environmental project vital to the larger Water Mill eco-system." He is confident that Water Mill residents will support the purchase of the equipment when it is proven to be effective.

About SolarBee

The SolarBee utilizes patented near laminar flow technology, to provide high-flow long-distance circulation that can improve water quality in almost any size surface water body such as: freshwater lakes and reservoirs, potable tanks and reservoirs and wastewater ponds and lagoons. According to Bruce Richards, Regional Manager for

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SolarBee, Inc.: “We’ve had excellent results using the SolarBee in over 170 lakes in North America. The circulation of the SolarBees has a negative effect on the blue green algae’s ability to bloom, thus the water clarity improves dramatically.” For more information, visit www.solarbee.com.

About the Peconic Land Trust

The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with farmers, donors, municipalities and other landowners to protect over 8,500 acres of land on eastern 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 preserving the unique rural heritage and natural resources of the region. The Trust has Stewardship Centers in Cutchogue and Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

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