

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

PLEIN AIR PECONIC II

Opening Friday October 5

At the **Wallace Gallery** in East Hampton

Featuring Preserves of the **Peconic Land Trust**

September 21, 2007. Southampton, New York. The Peconic Land Trust announces the opening of *Plein Air Peconic II* at the Wallace Gallery in East Hampton on October 5, 2007, the second major exhibition emanating from the collaboration between the Peconic Land Trust and 13 local artists in the group known as *Plein Air Peconic*. By painting, photographing and exhibiting conserved land and other open spaces of the East End, the artists call attention to what has already been accomplished by land conservation and the need to save as much of our land as possible from the on rush of development the East End of Long Island is experiencing.

“The opening of *Plein Air Peconic II* is a wonderful moment for the Peconic Land Trust, especially as it is on the eve of the organization’s 25th year of land conservation on Long Island. The collaboration between the Trust and the 13 very talented and generous artists of Plein Air Peconic has been wonderful in terms of bringing attention to the need and value of land conservation on the East End. We are extremely appreciative of all

--more--

their hard work and are very excited to add Terry Wallace to our *Plein Air Peconic* activities. Terry's appreciation of the artists' work, and that of the Trust, is an incredible affirmation of the entire Plein Air Peconic venture," said John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust.

The exhibition will be at the Wallace Gallery from Friday, October 5th through Monday, October 29th. The public is invited to attend the opening reception on Saturday, October 6th from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The gallery is located on Park Place Passage, right off Main Street, in the heart of East Hampton Village. The Gallery is open Sundays through Fridays from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM or by appointment by calling the Gallery at 631.329.4516.

Gordon Matheson, one of the founders of *Plein Air Peconic* said, "The artists have met a lot of art collectors in the last year and made a lot of new friends. It's an honor for us to be involved with the Peconic Land Trust and do our small part to help them towards their goals with land conservation. Last year's Columbus Day Weekend show was a big success but thanks to the generous involvement of Terry Wallace and the excitement and confidence he has shown in what we're doing, we expect *Plein Air Peconic II* to be an even bigger step in meeting new friends and influencing people to get more involved in land conservation."

The exhibition will present over 50 works of fine art depicting the East End's open spaces, which have been painted and photographed en plein air specifically for *Plein Air Peconic II*. The majority of the landscapes captured in these beautiful images have been

--more--

protected with the assistance of the Trust. The sometimes recognizable and sometimes secret sites are located all over the South and North Forks, plus Riverhead and Shelter and Ram Islands. All work is for sale and a percentage of the sales will be donated to the Peconic Land Trust.

The Trust cleared the way for artists to spend considerable time at 25 preserves, painting, photographing, and often just observing nature. These preserves represent the finest of the beauty the East End has to offer. Southampton Village was also generous in allowing the artists to park in reserved areas at Dune Beach, a preserve with bayfront, oceanfront, and beautiful dunes located in Southampton Village.

The Wallace Gallery is the preeminent East End landscape gallery and usually features noted, but long expired, landscape artists of the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Terry Wallace, the owner of Wallace Gallery, has decided to make an exception and feature these “living” artists because he appreciates their work and he is excited about the fact that plein air painters and photographers are working together with the goal of the greater good of the Peconic Land Trust in particular and East End land conservation in general. According to Wallace, “This is only the second time in Long Island art history that there’s been an organized group of outdoor painters – the first being Caroline Bell and the Peconic Bay Impressionists. In the tradition of William Merritt Chase and Caroline Bell, the *Plein Air Peconic* artists bring recognition and appreciation to these ordinary local subjects and views by painting them.” He believes that the artists as a group will be historically significant and writes on the subject in the comprehensive 65-page catalog he is producing for the show. Mr. Wallace is known for his extensive

--more--

knowledge of East End landscape painters and has written several books and published many catalogues on the subject.

Plein Air Peconic also has a *Traveling Exhibition*, which will have been displayed in five (5) different locations on the East End by the end of 2007 and will continue to other venues in 2008. The *Traveling Exhibition* highlights the land conservation efforts of the Trust. A Peconic Land Trust educational exhibit is an integral part of the art exhibit. A reception at each venue features talks by an artist and a Trust executive about the Trust's conservation efforts and their working relationship with the *Plein Air Peconic* artists.

The Artists of Plein Air Peconic

Casey Chalem Anderson, Susan D'Alessio, Terry Elkins, Aubrey Grainger, Gail Kern, Scott Hewett, Michele Margit, Gordon Matheson, Joanne Rosko, Eileen Dawn Skretch, Tom Steele, Kathryn Szoka, and Ellen Watson.

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 conserve over 8,600 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 and

--more--

Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. *A common misperception, however, is that the Peconic Land Trust is the recipient of 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 and then redistributed to the five East End towns, the distribution of which is based on the location of the property from which the tax is acquired.* For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit www.peconiclandtrust.org or call 631.283.3195.

For more information call:
Gordon Matheson
Plein Air Peconic
631.283.2928

Yvette DeBow-Salsedo
Director of Marketing & Communications
Peconic Land Trust
631.283.3195/cell: 646.284.8028

Terry Wallace
Wallace Gallery
631.329.4516

#####