

# PECONIC LAND TRUST



## **For immediate release**

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### **PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES THE CONSERVATION OF THE AMAGANSETT FARMERS MARKET**

*The conservation of this iconic community treasure was accomplished through the generosity of Margaret de Cuevas, Community Preservation Funds from East Hampton Town, a strong conservation ethic from the market's owner Pat Struk, and the efforts of the Peconic Land Trust.*

*The closing of the transaction occurred in East Hampton on July 14.*

**July 14, 2008. Southampton, New York.** John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust announced today the formal closing of the transaction that conserves the Amagansett Farmers Market. The Trust will lease the property from Margaret de Cuevas, a long-time supporter of the Trust's conservation work. Ms. de Cuevas purchased the property from Pat Struk for \$5.5 million; simultaneously, the Town of East Hampton purchased the development rights on 7.56 acres of the 9.33-acre property.

The conservation of the Amagansett Farmers Market and attendant farmland has been under discussion for many years. "Conservation transactions are complex, and it is not unusual for these transactions to take years before they reach fruition. We are very grateful to Pat Struk for working with us to conserve the Market and cannot express fully our gratitude to Maggie de Cuevas for her on-going support of the Trust's conservation work as exemplified by this important acquisition," said Halsey. In addition to de Cuevas and Struk, Halsey noted the critical role that the Town of East

Hampton played through the purchase of the development rights on the 7.56 acres of farmland included in the market property. "This transaction shows the power of public and private partnerships. It is a wonderful day for the Trust, the Town, and the Amagansett community. We look forward to a vibrant market in Amagansett that highlights the importance of our regional agricultural economy," Halsey added.

At the closing, the Trust announced that it will be signing an operator's agreement with Eli Zabar, the Manhattan East Side food purveyor, through November 30, 2011. Zabar plans to maintain the community orientation of the market. He, and his wife Devon Fredericks, a long-time East Hampton resident who started Loaves and Fishes, will work with the Trust to highlight the importance of regional produce and provide an opportunity for local farmers, fishermen, artisans, and others to sell their products at the market. In so doing, the market will strengthen our local economy and promote the Trust's land conservation work.

**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 nearly 9,000 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 and 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](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org) or call 631.283.3195.*

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