

PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES THE DONATION OF BRIDGE GARDENS

*Jim Kilpatric and Harry Neyens, founders of Bridge Gardens,
generously donate the 5-acre botanical garden to the Trust.*

November 10, 2008. Southampton, New York. John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announced the donation to the Trust of Bridge Gardens, a 5-acre garden on Mitchells Lane in Bridgehampton, by founders Jim Kilpatric and Harry Neyens. Kilpatric and Neyens founded Bridge Gardens over 20 years ago, and the donation represents a generous gift by them to the Trust as well as to residents and visitors of the East End.

“We believe the stewardship of the Peconic Land Trust will significantly guide Bridge Gardens into the future,” Kilpatric said. “Gardens are living creations and must undergo change over time; to survive, they must change,” Neyens added.

In accepting the donation, Trust President Halsey said: “Bridge Gardens is truly a wonderful sanctuary here on the East End, and we are very honored that Jim and Harry have put their trust in us to steward this property. We intend to keep Jim and Harry engaged with us as the garden evolves and we work to expand public access to this hidden treasure. We expect to introduce more educational programming related to

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gardening and conservation in general. Bridge Gardens is a refuge for people to meet and experience the handiwork that Jim and Harry have created over the years.”

The Garden, which has been open to the public from Memorial Day weekend through September, will reopen again in the spring under the auspices of the Trust. The Trust has appointed Rick Bogusch, master gardener and landscape architect, as Garden Manager. He will be responsible for managing and maintaining the garden and residence/education center. Prior to joining the Trust, Bogusch held landscape design and gardening positions with Rockland Farm (Canaan, NY), The Old Chatham Shepherding Company, and Cornell University (where he also received his Masters in Landscape Architecture).

Bogusch will work with members of the Trust staff to coordinate educational programs and tours at the Gardens, as well as special events and related fundraising activities. An advisory committee has also been established – including members of the Trust Board, staff, garden experts and local residents -- to work with Bogusch on future evolution of the garden.

About Bridge Gardens

Bridge Gardens was established in 1988 by Harry Neyens and Jim Kilpatric, who designed and installed the gardens over the ensuing 10 years. In 1997, Bridge Gardens Trust was created as a charitable corporation to maintain and preserve the gardens.

Bridge Gardens covers five acres and consists of an Inner Garden and an Outer Garden. Developed first, the Inner Garden features a large, meticulously-trimmed knot garden

surrounded by beds of 180 different culinary, medicinal, ornamental, and textile and dyeing herbs. Overlooking these plantings, the garden house is the manager's residence/education center.

In the Outer Garden, the favorite attraction is a collection of 800 antique and modern roses. Bridge Gardens also contains animal topiaries, a lavender parterre, perennial beds and borders, a water garden, woodland paths, a hidden bamboo room, double hedgerows of privet with viewing ports, and specimen shrubs and trees.

Bridge Gardens will be open to the public from Memorial Day weekend through September. Days, hours and other information regarding visiting the Gardens will be announced in early spring, including membership options.

In addition, special tours as well as opportunities for a limited number of special events – including corporate meetings, weddings, cocktail and dinner parties, photographic and film shoots – will be available at Bridge Gardens throughout the year. For more information, please contact Rick Bogusch at 631.283.3195 or email to BridgeGardens@PeconicLandTrust.org. Additional information about Bridge Gardens can be found on the Trust website at www.PeconicLandTrust.org.

About the Peconic Land Trust: The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. With the help of many, the nonprofit Trust has worked in partnership with landowners, local government, organizations, and communities to conserve over 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 or call 631.283.3195.*

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