

PECONIC LAND TRUST



CONSERVING LONG ISLAND'S WORKING FARMS, NATURAL LANDS, AND HERITAGE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

ISSUE NO. 11

The Latest News from the Peconic Land Trust

SPRING 2022

Conservation News

100 Acre Former Duck Farm Acquired in Riverhead

The site of the former *Broad Cove Duck Farm* founded by Joseph P. Celic, Sr. in the 1930s.



Julie Wesnofske, Peconic Land Trust Senior Project Manager and Andreas Weisz, Managing Partner of Walo, LLC at Broad Cove.

There's great news on the conservation front! Broad Cove, a 100-acre waterfront parcel on Flanders Bay in Aquebogue, was purchased by the Trust on December 31, 2021. Broad Cove has been a top conservation priority on the East End for decades. This purchase is a key step towards permanently protecting this environmentally sensitive parcel in the Peconic Bay Estuary.

"Our family is thrilled with this outcome," said Andreas Weisz, managing partner of Walo, LLC who owned the property. His grandfather, Stanley Weisz, acquired the land over 30 years ago. "My grandfather always wanted to see the land preserved, what we called the duck farm. We see this as his legacy, his pride and joy."

Broad Cove has been sought after by conservationists and developers alike for many years. Zoned for a high impact, mixed-use resort, the owner, Walo, LLC, accepted an offer from a developer in late 2020 and a contract was under review. Fortunately, when Andreas Weisz learned that the Peconic Land Trust was prepared to make an offer as well, he agreed to hold off in hopes that the property could be conserved instead.

"We're thankful to the owner for working with us to conserve this incredible property," said John v.H.



Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust. "We also thank our supporters for stepping up at this time to loan the Trust the funds necessary to complete the acquisition quickly. By acting when we did, we were able to secure the property from development so that it can finally be conserved."

The Trust was able to purchase the land with funds from six lines of credit provided by Trust supporters totaling \$11.5 million for the purchase and \$500,000 for carrying costs. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has expressed interest in partnering with the Trust to permanently protect the property.

Acting DEC Regional Director Cathy Haas said, "We commend our colleagues at the Peconic Land Trust for their work to protect this one-of-a-kind parcel. For decades the Broad Cove property has topped government acquisition lists, including New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. This acquisition is a great step toward permanent protection of a landmark property and DEC looks forward to continuing to work with Peconic Land Trust in their ongoing work."

"We had very little time, but we couldn't let Broad Cove slip through our fingers," Halsey said. "It's so important to the Peconic Bay Estuary for climate change resiliency, water quality, and plant and animal habitats."

Continued to Page 4 ...

Farms for the Future

Sagaponack Farmland Donated to the Trust

Beverley Galban of Sutton Hoo Inc. recently donated 33.4 acres of farmland in Sagaponack to the Trust. The farmland is currently leased by Mecox Bay Dairy and was planted this winter with 10 acres of hay along with cover crops. This Spring they plan to grow corn for their dairy cows.

In 1992, Southampton Town acquired an agricultural easement on the property as a condition of subdivision approval. This requires the land to remain available for agricultural production and protects the property's scenic and open space values. The parcel is further protected with an enhanced conservation easement with affirmative and affordable farming covenants. This means that land can be farmed primarily for food production. It also limits the resale price and restricts future sales of the property to a qualified farmer. With these restrictions, the farmland will remain accessible and affordable for farmers into the future in one of the country's most expensive areas.



**Our sincere thanks to the Galban family
for all they've done for the farming
community in Sagaponack
over the years.**

For more information about this project, contact Senior Project Manager Julie Wesnofske at JWesnofske@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Farmland Forever Protected in Cutchogue



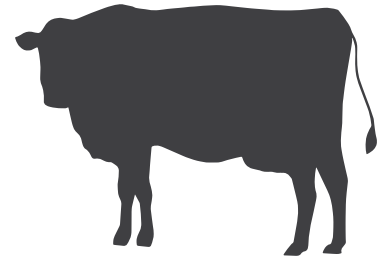
In December 2021, Southold Town purchased the development rights (PDR) on 7.7 acres of farmland from Russ McCall. A PDR protects the land from development, while allowing landowners like McCall to continue owning their property. The protection continues even if the property is sold in the future.

This property was originally owned and farmed by the Elak Family. They grew field crops and sod for many years. In 2019, McCall reached out to the Trust for help on buying and protecting Elak Farm – his next door neighbor.



The Trust contacted John Elak and through a grant from New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, ordered an appraisal on the farmland. Once the value of the property was known, financial negotiations began between McCall and Elak facilitated by Trust Senior Project Manager, Holly Sanford. An agreement was made and Russ McCall purchased and protected the property in 2021.

This land, along with McCall's two adjacent parcels, now creates a farm totaling over 100 acres of protected land. McCall intends to use the farmland as additional pasture for his cattle.



**Thank you to John Elak, Russ McCall,
and the Town of Southold for working
together to protect farmland
for future generations.**

To learn more about this project, contact Holly Sanford, Senior Project Manager at HSanford@PeconicLandTrust.org.

What's New at Quail Hill Farm



Those of you who participated in the winter share at Quail Hill Farm (QHF) will know that we had an abundant and fulsome harvest: winter squash, carrots, sweet potatoes, garlic, potatoes, greenhouse-grown salad, and other crops were made possible by the careful planning and execution of our stellar 2021 farm crew.

And likewise, this coming season will prove abundant on account of the studious crop planning skills of Madison Aldrich, our new Farm Manager. Having spent the past two seasons at QHF as an advanced apprentice, and as someone who grew up in East Hampton, Madi is ready to hit the ground running.

Also joining the team this season is Lawrence Zietz, our new Propagation and Flower Coordinator. Lawrence will help oversee all of the propagation for the farm, including our Memorial Day Plant Sale (Saturday, May 28th), as well as the cut flower program on Birch Hill. An experienced farmer with many years of experience in different operations, we're excited to welcome Lawrence to the QHF management team.

For the coming season, we're expanding our efforts for broader accessibility for our East End community. Our sliding scale payment structure continues for a second year to offer equitable access to our CSA shares; and new for 2022, we will accept EBT and SNAP benefits at our farmers markets this season. In addition, signage and membership information will be updated to be bilingual in Spanish and English.

We're launching our third season of our highly successful *Farm to Food Pantry Program*, a large-format CSA for our partners at the Bridgehampton Child Care Center. This year, we're building that program to include monthly cooking demos for client families of the Center. Thanks to broad support from our membership base, we're able to continue this partnership free-of-charge to the Center and their clients.

Now entering our third year growing during the global pandemic, we continue to envision the tools we need to hone the building blocks of this Community Farm (stewardship, nourishment, connection), examine and improve those tools to meet the challenges of "the New Normal." By joining QHF, you're supporting a local food movement that is woven from these values, pushing us towards an East End food system that is equitable, accessible and bountiful.

Adapted from a note from Quail Hill Farm Director Layton Guenther, LGuenther@PeconicLandTrust.org. Interested in joining the farm for summer 2022? Visit PeconicLandTrust.org/QHF.

Who's Farming with the Trust in 2022

The Trust staff is working with 30 different farmers on over 200 acres of farmland!

Ag Center (Southold)

Akio Shoji: Japanese vegetables

Deep Roots Farm: fruits, vegetables, and pasture-raised animals, deeprootsfarmnofo.com

Fire for Effect Farm: vegetables, fireforeffectfarms.org

Fishtail Farm: flowers and vegetables, [instagram.com/fishtailfarm](https://www.instagram.com/fishtailfarm)

Hampton Oyster Co.: oysters, [instagram.com/hamptonoysterc](https://www.instagram.com/hamptonoysterc)

Heirloom Taste: heirloom tomatoes

Little Spoon South Fork - Floral & Garden Design:

flowers and vegetables, littlespoonsouthfork.com

Priscilla's Farm: vegetables and flowers,

[facebook.com/priscillaantoinettesgardens](https://www.facebook.com/priscillaantoinettesgardens)

Sang Lee Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers,

sangleefarms.com

Sweet Woodland Farm: medicinal and culinary herbs,

sweetwoodlandfarm.com

Deborah Ann Light Preserve (Amagansett)

Amber Waves Farm: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers,

amberwavesfarm.org

Balsam Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers

balsamfarms.com

Bees' Needs: honey, beesneeds.com

Mike Tracey: vegetables

Ocean to Earth Gardens: vegetables, herbs, and flowers

ocean-to-earthgardens.com

Sand & Soil: vegetables, sandandsoil.square.site

Summerhill Farm: trees and plants (nursery)

summerhilllandscapes.com

Three Sons Farm: vegetables

Barra Farmland (Wading River)

Condzella's Farm: vegetables, condzellasfarm.com

Edwards Farm (Orient)

East End Flower Farm: pumpkins, eastendflowerfarm.com

Hayground Farm (Bridgehampton)

Anandham Landscaping: flowers, anandhamlandscaping.com

Remi Wesnofske Farms and Yellow Farm Barn: vegetables

Mill Lane Preserve (Peconic)

Catapano Dairy Farm: goats, catapanodairyfarm.com

North Fork Stewardship Center (Cutchogue)

McCall Ranch: cattle, mccallwines.com

Peconic Escargot: snails, peconicescargot.com

Raynor Dibble (Eastport)

Sag Harbor Honey: honey, sagharborhoney.com

Schleicher Preserve (Bridgehampton)

and Sutton Hoo Preserve (Sagaponack)

Mecox Bay Dairy: vegetables, mecoxbaydairy.com

Shellfisher Preserve (Southold)

Noank Aquaculture Cooperative: shellfish, noankcooperative.org

Town Lane Preserve (Amagansett)

Amagansett Sea Salt: sea salt, amagansettseasalt.com

The Hoppy Acre: hops and peppers, thehoppyacre.com

Wellde/Sugar Mountain Preserve (Sagaponack)

Pike Farms: vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers

pikefarms.com

Broad Cove (continued)

Adjacent to Indian Island County Park, the property includes 25 acres of tidal wetlands and 8,000 feet of shoreline on Terry Creek and Broad Cove in Flanders Bay. It also features woodlands and open fields.

“Over the past six months, as we were working out the details, I’ve spent so much time walking the land. I’ve come to appreciate how special it is – its peacefulness and the crystal-clear waters of the canals. Ideally, this is what this land should be – a nature preserve and a place for people to enjoy the woods, the water. I look forward to visiting in the future with my family,” added Andreas.

To learn more about the conservation story and history of Broad Cove, contact Julie Wesnofske, Senior Project Manager at JWesnofske@PeconicLandTrust.org.



Celic Family Remembers “Pop” Celic and “The Farm”



Vera, Betty & Joseph P. Celic, Sr.

The woodlands, wetlands, meadows and tributaries of Broad Cove, the 100 acres of natural lands located within the Peconic Bay Estuary in Aquebogue, have a rich history in the East

End’s agricultural

fabric – Long Island duck farms. Founded in the 1930s, Broad Cove Farm was one of over 90 duck farms on Long Island at the peak of duck farming in the 1950s.

From the late 1930s until the late 1970s, Broad Cove Duck Farm founder, Joseph P. Celic, Sr., was a leader in the region. His most notable role was organizing the Riverhead Duck Processing Cooperative in the mid-1950s.

Recently, we connected with the family of Mr. Celic – his daughter Betty Celic Holden, and her children Susan Holden and Rich Holden. They reached out to us when they heard about the purchase. They’re so happy to see a conservation future for “the farm” as it is called by the family. They know that “Pop” would be pleased.

“My dad was a prolific reader and self-taught, having only gone to school through the 8th grade. The son of Polish immigrants, he was a leader in the community. He was able to get the independent duck farmers together to create the Cooperative and to have the cooperative processing plant (on Elton Avenue in

Riverhead). This benefited all the farmers who were able to earn a good dollar for the sale of their ducks,” reflects Mrs. Holden.

The business of duck farming on Long Island is known for its struggles with issues related to environment, disease and pests, and competition. But it is also known for creating a food industry, providing jobs and significant economic benefit to the region.

“I have so many memories of my grandfather driving around the farm or on his fishing boat, the Ho-Hum,” said Rich. “It really is a beautiful waterfront place, and I see this as a perfect setting for birdwatching especially during the spring and fall migrations.”

“Our family is so delighted that the Peconic Land Trust has saved this very special piece of waterfront property from development,” said Susan, who now also lives in Orient. “We look forward to supporting its restoration and supplying the Trust with historical information of its time as one of the largest producers of famous Long Island duckling.”



Joseph P. Celic, Sr. and Governor Nelson Rockefeller

We are so thankful to Betty and her children Rich and Susan for reaching out to us – and pleased to be able to work with the community to make this special place on Flanders Bay a treasure for future generations.

Wetlands Protected Along Seatuck Creek in Eastport



In December 2021, Southampton Town bought three parcels along Seatuck Creek in Eastport. These parcels, totaling 5.5 acres, provide flood protection and scenic natural open space for the community.

Over the past two years, the Trust has worked with the Town and property owners, Greenstar Enterprises Inc, RI Monterey Oaks Corp and Robert Toussie to conserve this property.

Located in the Town's designated Wetland Preservation Target Area, the properties are noted as, "an indispensable and fragile natural resource that is immensely important to both the environmental and economic health of the Town." This rich assemblage consists of sensitive wetlands that contribute to the Town's biodiversity and provide important pollution control functions. Encompassing over 555 feet of shoreline, the newly protected land will benefit the area for years to come.

**We thank Robert Toussie and the
Town of Southampton for working
with us to conserve these critical wetlands
for the community.**

*For more information, contact Director of Conservation Planning,
Kim Quarty at KQuarty@PeconicLandTrust.org.*

*Southampton Town purchased the three parcels using its Community Preservation Funds (CPF).
The Peconic Land Trust does not collect or distribute the funds from CPF, also known as the 2% real
estate transfer tax. The 2% real estate transfer fee paid by buyers for the Peconic Bay Region Community
Preservation Fund goes directly to the Town in which the property purchased is located.*

**The Trust is primarily supported by private contributions from generous donors.
Thanks for making our work possible!**

Increase your Impact by becoming a **Peconic Partner**

Your monthly Annual Fund gifts provide the Trust with the steady income needed to quickly adapt to constantly changing conditions. Every month you are protecting our working farms, natural lands, and heritage.

You make our work possible!

Thank you.

Giving is easy!

Simply return the enclosed gift envelope, or visit us online.
www.PeconicLandTrust.org/GiveMonthly
Call us at 631.283.3195 or email us at Info@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Donor Spotlight

Bobbie Braun: Supporting Access to Food and Art on the East End

Attracted by the views, light, air, and seasons of the South Fork, Bobbie Braun moved to Bridgehampton 30 years ago. The area was planted with potatoes, cows, and corn when she first got here. Over the past three decades, she has seen rapid development take over.

However, as the 4th generation to run her family foundation, The Neuwirth Foundation, Bobbie has been able to counter some of the change. She makes targeted donations like those through her membership to Bridge Gardens and the Trust's Quail Hill Farm *Farm to Food Pantry Program*. She also serves on committees and boards of local non-profits, including the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center (The Center). Her guiding principles are to help people – of all ages, for all reasons – through art, education, conservation, and science. “We need to preserve what we can. I’m thrilled with what the Trust is doing and grateful I can do this kind of work through the Foundation.”

A member of Bridge Gardens since 2011, she always starts her tours at the community garden plots. “The amount of food they’re capable of growing on these small plots – pounds and pounds of vegetables – is amazing!” There are many aspects of agriculture and gardening that Garden Director Rick Bogusch is able to highlight throughout the 5-acre property, including a focus on native plants and herbs and the food values they present. “Bridge Gardens is the best kept secret around here. I only hope that more people could learn about it.” Thanks to Bobbie, a collaboration between the garden and The Center is in the works that will enable Rick to share his knowledge.



Bobbie Braun, Gracie, and Bridge Gardens Director Rick Bogusch

Connecting people, young and old, to local food is essential to her and the Foundation. As Quail Hill Farm's *Farm to Food Pantry Program* enters its third year, support from donors like Bobbie allows us to continue this partnership free-of-charge to The Center. In addition to providing fresh produce, this year's program will include monthly cooking demos for client families of The Center.

One focus of Bobbie's that cannot be missed is the value of art. This summer you'll see Bobbie and her fellow members of The Wednesday Group paint en plein air at Bridge Gardens. Their artwork will be displayed and available for sale at one of the Members-Only music nights this summer. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the gardens.

We are thankful to Bobbie Braun for sharing her story with us. Your support, along with Bobbie's, allows us to continue to protect and share natural resources on the East End.

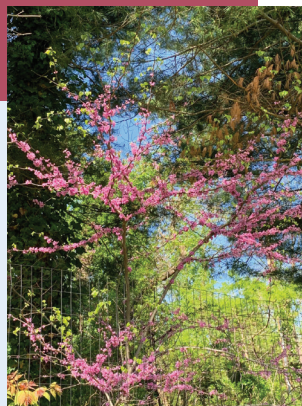
To learn more about the Farm to Food Pantry Program, contact Amanda Abraham, Director of Development at AAbraham@PeconicLandTrust.org.

Interested in becoming a Bridge Gardens Member? Visit our website to join and contact Kathy Kennedy, Senior Manager of Outreach at KKennedy@PeconicLandTrust.org to learn more.

Plant Native Trees: Redbud

Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) are native from Pennsylvania south to Florida and west to Missouri and Texas. A popular small tree for landscaping, they are hardy throughout most of the northeast. One of the most ornamental natives, redbuds provide interest throughout the year.

With short trunks, a rounded form, and a gracefully spreading branching structure, redbuds have dark gray bark and present a distinctive silhouette in winter. In spring, from late April into May, an abundance of stemless, pea-like flowers appears all



along the bare branches, highlighting them in purplish pink. Leaves are heart-shaped and dark green in summer, turning a bright, clear yellow in fall.

Easy to transplant, redbuds do best in deep, fertile, moist, well-drained soil, but they are very adaptable and tolerate a wide range of site conditions including gravelly soils, drought and partial shade.

Hybrids are common in the nursery trade. Look for 'Alba,' with white flowers and 'Forest Pansy,' with purple leaves.

Redbud leaves and flowers provide food for many insects, including moths, butterflies, and carpenter bees. At Bridge Gardens, you can see redbuds planted in the vegetative buffer along Mitchell Lane and behind the vegetable garden.



PECONIC LAND TRUST



SAVE THE DATE

Through Farms & Fields

AUGUST 7, 2022

WHITECAP FARM | WATER MILL

For more information and to purchase tickets please contact
Julia King at 631.283.3195 ext. 122 or JKing@PeconicLandTrust.org
www.PeconicLandTrust.org/TFF2022





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OUR LATEST CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrating 39 years of Conservation



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**Peconic Land Trust conserves Long Island's working farms,
natural lands, and heritage for our communities now and in the future.**



We'd love to hear from you. Feel free to reach out to us with any comments, questions, or concerns. Our full staff list with email addresses can be found on our website, PeconicLandTrust.org Or email us at Info@PeconicLandTrust.org or call **631.283.3195**.

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www.PeconicLandTrust.org/Places-to-Visit

A copy of the last financial report filed with the New York State Attorney General may be obtained in writing to: New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005 or Peconic Land Trust, 296 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968.