

DAILY NEWS

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Field of dreams at Pindar vineyard in Peconic will be picked by volunteers this weekend and sold to raise money for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Sunflowers will \$hine for Make-A-Wish

By Richard Weir

FOR YEARS, the Pindar vineyard has planted a patch of sunflowers to add a splash of vibrant color to its earth-toned palette of green grape vines and brown fields.

But this year the Peconic winery plans to reap more than just a beautified landscape from the brilliant yellow-rayed flowers.

This week, its 1-acre field of sunflowers will be picked by volunteers. Bouquets will then be sold Saturday and Sunday (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.) as part of a fund-raiser called Sunflowers for Wishes, which will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Suffolk County.

“Our sunflower field has been making people smile for 15 years,” said Dr. Herodotus (Dan) Damianos, owner of Pindar.

“I cannot think of a better way to spread that joy than through granting wishes with the help of the Make-A-Wish Foundation,” he added.

Pindar takes its cue from the Buttonwood

Farm in Griswold, Conn., where the Button family last year raised nearly \$30,000 through a similar Sunflowers for Wishes event.

Farm owner Duane Button, who first planted sunflowers in 2003, said he’s seen the “modest fund-raiser grow into a regional event.”

The farm now harvests more than 10 acres of sunflowers.

Pindar spokeswoman Vanessa Dayton said the vineyard, with only 1 acre, hopes to raise a few thousand dollars – and grant at least one sick child a wish.

The bouquets will sell for \$5, and the entire net proceeds from the event will go to the non-profit charity.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation tries to make wishes possible for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

For more information, call Pindar at (631) 477-9600.