



For more information contact:

Dulcie F. Flaharty, Executive Director
Montgomery County Lands Trust
215-513-0100
(e-mail) dflaharty@mclt.org

or

Gwyn Rowland, Manager of Special Projects
Montgomery County Lands Trust
215-513-0100
(e-mail) growland@mclt.org

For Immediate Release

**Montgomery County Lands Trust Seeks National Accreditation
and Invites Public Comment**

October 6, 2009 -- Harleysville, PA **Montgomery County Lands Trust**, a county-wide land trust is pleased to announce that it is seeking accreditation through the nationally recognized land trust accreditation program. This program recognizes organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. **A public comment period is now open for Montgomery County Lands Trust.**

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. For Montgomery County Lands Trust, having accreditation will add yet another layer of professionalism to the land conservation work that the non-profit organization has been doing since 1993. Jake Lea, Director of Land Preservation for the organization, says, "accreditation will further assure landowners and other key stakeholders that we abide by strict national guidelines and conform to procedures and rules that ensure that our organization is ethically and fiscally responsible."

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Montgomery County Lands Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For a full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/2008-indicator-practices on the Land Trust Accreditation Commission website.

To learn more about the accreditation program, and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Attn.: Public Comments (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Montgomery County Lands Trust's Application will be most useful if received by December 28, 2009.

As a non-profit conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust works to preserve and connect the natural areas, farmland, and neighborhood green spaces which contribute to our quality of life, to a clean and abundant water supply and to the health of our region's economy. To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at www.mclt.org

###