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Montgomery County Lands Trust Earns National Recognition
Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Saratoga Springs, NY – The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, announces that Montgomery County Lands Trust has been awarded accredited status.

“Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever,” says Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.”

The accredited status of Montgomery County Lands Trust demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation,” says Kate Harper, Esq., Board Chair of Montgomery County Lands Trust. “The accreditation process affirmed the strength of our policies while inspiring us to become even better at what we do.”

Since the 1993 founding of Montgomery County Lands Trust, the non-profit organization has directly preserved and facilitated the protection of more than 5,100 acres. The group works to connect people with green places through open space education, and it tackles the open space projects that improve the quality of life for citizens throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Land is America's most important and valuable resource. Conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water, food security, scenic landscapes and views, recreational places, and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 37 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

Montgomery County Lands Trust was awarded accreditation this February and is one of 130 land trusts from across the country that has been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Alliance, of which Montgomery County Lands Trust is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org. More information on the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.

Reflecting on the achievement, Executive Director Dulcie Flaharty says "Knowing that Montgomery County Lands Trust has done the critical work of reviewing, updating and developing state-of-the-art procedures confirms that we are operating in the most ethical and responsible manner. We are honored to join the ranks of top-rated land trusts."

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