

Harvesting Hope

The Land Trust Alliance congratulates the following land trusts that were recently awarded accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

**Newly Accredited Land Trusts
Announced August 2009**

Aquidneck Land Trust (RI)
Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (NH)
Central Savannah River Land Trust (GA)
Edisto Island Open Land Trust (SC)
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (MI)
Jefferson Land Trust (WA)
Lancaster County Conservancy (PA)
Land Trust for Tennessee (TN)
Natural Lands Trust (PA)
Nevada County Land Trust (CA)
Oconee River Land Trust (GA)
Sacramento Valley Conservancy (CA)
Salem Land Trust (CT)
San Isabel Land Protection Trust (CO)
Teton Regional Land Trust (ID)
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey (NJ)
Tinicum Conservancy (PA)
Tri-Valley Conservancy (CA)
Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CA)

TO SEE THE COMPLETE LIST OF ACCREDITED LAND TRUSTS, TURN TO PAGE 39.

When generations of your family have farmed the same land, you feel a deep attachment to that place. Just ask Jack and Jean Pulver, who run the 260-acre Pleasant View Farm in the Hudson River Valley of New York. Their family has farmed for over 100 years, but low milk prices now make it hard to pay the bills. The Pulver's next-door neighbors sold their farm for house lots, and it looked like Jack and Jean would have to do the same. The new federal tax incentive gave the Pulvers new hope.

"Once you lose it, you're never gonna get it back, so you've gotta protect it somehow," said Jack. With the incentive in place, he and Jean completed a combination purchased and donated conservation easement project with Dutchess Land Conservancy. This farm is safe from development thanks to you and all who helped pass the tax incentive.

Four years ago, we convinced Congress to pass a temporary tax incentive to encourage moderate income landowners to donate the development rights on their property. This incentive delivers about \$4 dollars of conservation value for every dollar of tax deduction and is especially important during this recession when governments and foundations are cutting funding for conservation. But this powerful incentive will expire on December 31 unless we take immediate action.

The good news is that our friends in Congress introduced H.R. 1831 and S. 812, bills to make this incentive a permanent part of the tax code. The land trust community has built strong, bipartisan support for these bills, and, with your help, we have a good chance to pass them this fall.

Please ask your congressional delegation to co-sponsor H.R. 1831 or S. 812. Better yet, invite them to a celebration of a place protected forever, thanks to their vote on this tax incentive. Get their picture in the local paper and you will have a friend for life!

Passing this legislation would be a wonderful way for America to give thanks for the natural beauty, clean water and fresh food which the land gives to us every day. To learn more, visit www.lta.org/easementincentive.



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