



## Land Trust Protects 398 Acres in 2005

**2005** saw the Land Trust add another five easements and 398 acres to its portfolio, bringing its portfolio up to 15 easements protecting in perpetuity over 1300 acres of Eastern Panhandle farmland and forest from development. Significant achievements for the year included the first pure donation of an easement in Jefferson County and protection of further Civil War related property there. The Land Trust partnered with either the Jefferson County or the Berkeley Farmland Protection Board on each of its 2005 easements, all of which will preserve the land for farming.

### Jefferson County

The 260 acres protected in Jefferson County in 2005 included 59 acres of farmland at the intersection of Trough and Engle-Moler Road outside Shepherdstown - the area from which Confederate Forces fought when Union Forces crossed the Potomac and advanced up Tough Road after the battle of Antietam. The Federal American Battlefield Protection Program partially funded this easement, with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Printz, donating the remainder of the value. (In 2004 the Land Trust, with the assistance of the ABPP, helped protect 183 acres further to the east, along the route the Confederate Forces took on their way to Antietam).

Another 2005 easement, donated in its entirety by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Moore, protected 80 acres of farmland nearby, a portion of which lies within the



*59 acres of prime farmland with Civil War significance.*

*Co-funded by The American Battlefield Protection Program and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Prince.*

area of the Battle of Shepherdstown. The Land Trust hopes to be able to obtain easements on additional property in the battle area, as well as to help protect Civil War-related sites elsewhere in the county in 2006.

Since its founding in 1994, the Land Trust has sought to protect land along the streams of the Eastern Panhandle. In 2005, it became co-holder of and easement on a dramatically scenic 40 acres on Rattlesnake Run, which runs through the northern part of the county before emptying into the Potomac River near Knott's Island. The Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board partially funded this easement, with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Lewis, donating the remainder of the value.

Finally the Land Trust joined with the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to protect 81 acres of prime farmland in the southern part of the county, along Ward Clipp Road, owned by Ruth Prichard. The JCFPB and NRCS jointly funded purchase of this easement.

### Berkeley County

In Berkeley County, the Land Trust became co-holder with the Berkeley County Farmland Protection Board of a 138-acre easement on valuable farmland just to the west of I-81. The Berkeley County FPB funded purchase of the easement from Mr. and Mrs. Bishop.

# Landscapes

News from the Land Trust  
of the Eastern Panhandle

## Your Partner in Rural Conservation

Our mission is to encourage people to preserve open space and rural landscapes in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. We use private, voluntary initiative and education to:

- Preserve the scenic beauty and historic character that have long made our region attractive to people;
- Promote a healthy, balanced local economy by preserving productive farmland and encouraging appropriate development;
- Encourage wise stewardship of the region's natural resources.

We are a private, non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization incorporated in West Virginia in 1995. Our board is composed of men and women from a variety of backgrounds from Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson counties.

We meet monthly at the Martinsburg law firm of Hammer, Ferretti & Schiavoni, and we thank them for opening their office to us.

### Board Members

Mark Benedict  
Edward Moore  
Grant Smith  
Bonnie Stubblefield  
Peter Vila

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## LTEP News

## The Land Trust in Action

*Working to preserve the Eastern Panhandle*

### New Board Member

Edward Moore of Shepherdstown joined the board of directors of the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle in March. A native West Virginian from the "other panhandle", Edward and his wife, Helen, returned to the state in 1991 upon retirement from his work in Washington with various government agencies. They built a new home on an 80-acre farm they purchased many years ago. Shown on early maps as the "Spring Farm," it is located on Engel - Molers road, about a mile southeast of Shepherdstown. Last year, the Moore's donated an easement on the entire farm to the Trust and the Farmland Protection Board, the first donated easement in the history of the Trust.

### Land Trust Signage

In 2005, the Land Trust unveiled a newly designed sign to be prominently displayed, highlighting those lands protected under a conservation easement. The blue and white sign features the logo with its mountains and streams along with the words "protected forever". The goal of the signs is to raise awareness of farmland that has been protected as well as to make people aware of conservation opportunities and the Land Trust's role in our community. Watch for the signs and enjoy the beauty of the land.



*Helen and Ed Moore display the new Land Trust sign identifying a conservation easement on their property. The Moore's are joined by Grant Smith, President of the LTEP, and Bonnie Stubblefield, Vice-President of the LTEP.*

## Reflections on Conservation

The following article has been excerpted from a September 29, 2005 Press Release from the Land Trust Alliance

### Land Trust Alliance Approves Strong Accreditation Program

#### *New Commission to Ensure High Standards for Land Conservation*

The governing board of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) voted on September 29, 2005 to approve a new accreditation program for the nation's 1500 land trusts - local, state, regional, and national groups that conserve land through voluntary agreements with private landowners in communities across the country. The program is designed to provide independent verification that these groups meet high standards for voluntary land conservation.

"In a year marked by Congressional scrutiny of charities and conservation land transactions, I am pleased that LTA is leading the nonprofit community by establishing a private-sector accreditation program that will recognize the high standards employed by land trusts across the nation," said LTA President Rand Wentworth. "This accreditation program will maintain the public trust in voluntary land conservation and help build strong and lasting land conservation organizations."

The design of the accreditation program is based on an extensive year-long public involvement process. Over one thousand comments from the land trust community were received during the course of the program's design and led to the development of a fair, accessible and credible process. Eighty percent of the nation's land trusts plan to participate in the program and seek accreditation, according to market research conducted this past summer.

The following article is based on text extracted from <http://www.lta.org/sp/revision.htm>

### LTEP Adopts Revised Land Trust Standards and Practices

#### *A First Step in the LTA Accreditation Process*

The Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle's Board of Directors adopted the revised Land Trust Standards and Practices in November 2005, taking the first step in the accreditation process. The revised Standards and Practices are a result of 14 months effort involving hundreds of land conservationists who attended listening sessions, and edited multiple drafts. The revision captures the best thinking of land trusts from throughout the country about best practices and how to uphold the public's trust in land conservation.

The revised Land Trust Standards and Practices: reflect the lessons learned in conservation over the fifteen years since they were first created and recent changes in nonprofit law; emphasize that a strong land trust movement depends on the credibility and effectiveness of all its members and that sustainable land conservation organizations require systems and processes to help ensure that their

work will withstand the test of time; and place additional focus on areas where there has been recent public scrutiny of nonprofit practices, including managing conflicts of interest, conducting transactions with "insiders," and taking greater responsibility for seeing that tax code requirements are met.

The 12 standards and 88 accompanying practices in the revised Land Trust Standards and Practices are a critical tool for meeting today's land conservation challenges. The Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle is happy to join more than 1,000 organizations across the country in adopting the Land Trust Standards and Practices and, in doing so, making a commitment to use them to guide their land and water conservation actions.



*Stream running through McMurray Property*

Visit the Land Trust Alliance's web site ([www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org)) for more information on the **Land Trust Accreditation Program** and the **Land Trust Standards and Practices**

## Volunteers Needed for Scenic Outdoor Work

As reported in the article in this issue, the Land Trust in 2005 dramatically increased the number of easements it holds or co-holds. We will need help in conducting the annual monitoring visits of these easements. Such visits involve a 1-2 hour tour of the property, usually on foot, to insure that no changes have occurred that contravene the terms of the easement. We try to schedule the work during good weather and to pair a volunteer with an experienced board member. This is an opportunity to see some of the wonderful farms and forests of the Eastern Panhandle. If you are interested, please call board member Grant Smith, 304-876-2583.

## Berkeley and Jefferson County Residents: Please Help us to Stay in Touch after the 911 Address Conversion and Zip Code Changes

Jefferson County has undergone an address conversion from rural routes to street addresses to make it easier for emergency service providers to find the homes of county residents. Because of the population increase in Berkeley County, new zip codes have been assigned by the post office. Please help us stay in touch – if your address has changed, fill in this form and mail it to us. Many thanks.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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