



Land Trust Network protects Cambridge area CSA farm

Monday, April 02, 2012

The Land Trust Network, originating in Jefferson County, received a donated conservation easement on a Jefferson County CSA (Community Support Agriculture) farm.

The 102-acre farm owned by Michael and Linda Ball is located in the towns of Sumner and Oakland.

For a fee the Ball's Plum Hill Farm CSA allows those wanting to purchase local, naturally grown, farm fresh produce, to become members and receive a sharebox weekly for 18 weeks.

It starts in late May/early June and runs until October, for 18 weeks.

Included is a weekly newsletter and tips on how to prepare their weekly bounty.

Their farm is in its 18th year of CSA production. In addition to their CSA farm, the Balls have a daylily nursery where "totally green grown" plants are produced.

Their daylily nursery is in its ninth year of business and the plants they produce are well known and can even be found in Europe.

They have over 300 varieties of daylilies, which are licensed and inspected with the state of Wisconsin.

Information on the Plum Hill Farm CSA can be found at www.localharvest.org and their daylily nursery can be found on their Web site at www.plumhillfarmdaylilies.com.

"The Land Trust Network has as its mission to protect farming in Wisconsin, and through our land preservation programs we are doing just that," stated Martine Koepfel, a certified public accountant and chairwoman of the Land Trust Network.

Koepfel added that the preservation of "farming" includes both niche farms like the Ball CSA farm and larger scale farming.

What makes the donation of the Ball conservation easement so special for the Land Trust Network is that it is the third donated conservation easement in this area that the LTN has received.

The Land Trust Network received two donated conservation easements neighboring the Ball property in 2006 and 2010.

In 2006 LTN received a 118-acre donated easement from the Nettum family whose property lies north of the Ball farm, and in 2010 LTN received a 40-acre donated easement from the Ellis family which neighbors the Ball farm to the west.

In total, these three donated easements permanently protect over 260 acres of farmland, woodlands, and wetlands.

To date LTN has received 21 donated conservation easements in seven south-central counties, which permanently protect over 3,500 acres of Wisconsin's natural resources.

For information on how a landowner can place a conservation easement on their land, or other LTN information, visit www.landtrustnetwork.org or write to LTN at P.O. Box 142, Watertown.

Related Links:

- [Land Trust Network](#)