

September 13th
Farm to Farm
Bus Tour

On Saturday, September 13th we will offer a unique bus tour of five landmark farms located in the Blackstone Valley.



In addition to highlighting local produce, the farms included in the tour also have a history of social advocacy and land preservation. We will be visiting a farm that has a longstanding tradition of employing migrant workers, farms that contribute to a community food bank, and farms that are participants in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. The tour will include:

Whittier Farms, Sutton - a full scale dairy operation

Foppema's Farm, Northbridge - an Agricultural Preservation Restriction Farm growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, known for its pick your own strawberries and sweet corn

Keown Orchard, Sutton- an Agricultural Preservation Restriction farm growing a variety of fruits and crops, known for its apple orchards

Waters Farm, Sutton - a preserved historic farm where we will stop for lunch

Sweetwilliam Farm, Upton —an environmentally conscious farming operation with a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) providing a tangible connection between the food that we eat and the farmers who grow it.

You will hear from each of the farm owners and have an opportunity to browse and shop at each location. This guided tour will include a morning and afternoon snack and a box lunch at historic Waters Farm in Sutton. A limited number of tickets are now available for \$30 each.

For more information please contact Pat Nedoroscik at pnedoroscik@charter.net, Sutton MLT representative or 508-476-7465. A flyer about the Farm to Farm Tour is available from our News and Events web page.

Congress Extends Tax Incentive
for Conservation Restrictions

The 2008 Farm Bill renews a powerful tax incentive which has helped conserve a million or more acres of farms, woodland and natural areas across the US. The incentive is retroactive to the beginning of 2008 and will last through 2009.

The tax incentive was recently featured on Forbes.com, the online version of Forbes Magazine: "Landowners and Charities Farm Tax Break."

Metacomet Land Trust greatly appreciates the support for this important conservation initiative shown by our own Congressmen Jim McGovern and Richard Neal and Senator John Kerry.

The higher charitable tax deduction for gifts of permanent conservation restrictions will help many landowners in our area.

The incentive, which applies to a landowner's federal income tax, will:

*** Raise the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of income in any year to 50%;**

*** Allow farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and**

*** Increase the number of years over which a donor can take the charitable deduction to 16 years.**

Metacomet is proud to have partnered with five landowners over the years to protect 160 acres through the donation of Conservation Restrictions.

For more information on how to conserve your property, please visit our website for a checklist and then call our toll-free number, 1-888-298-7284. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, please leave your name and address on the voice mail.

All inquiries are handled in strictest confidence. Since conservation restrictions typically require several months of preparation, please act soon to take advantage of the higher charitable deduction. Please visit our pages on Conservation Restrictions and other means of preserving land.

Metacomet Land Trust will celebrate its 20th Anniversary serving the communities of south-central Massachusetts this fall!

As we mark this anniversary, we are opening a new channel to communicate with you.

We will send our newsletter electronically to all who would prefer NOT to receive a paper copy and place an electronic version on our website for your reference.

Please use the secure sign-up box at our home page or send your email address to info@metacometlandtrust.org.

Our emails are sent through a secure email service called "Constant Contact" which follows industry best practices for preventing "spam" or unwanted email from being sent to you.

You may opt out of our mailing list at any time.

Thank you for helping the land trust "go paper-less"!

Strategic Planning Process Underway

The Metacomet Land Trust Board of Directors has retained Nanette Robicheau, Manager at TDC of Boston, to guide the organization through a strategic planning process this year.

Ms. Robicheau has over 15 years of experience in strategic planning, program evaluation and organizational development. Her work is being funded in large part by a \$10,000 grant awarded to MLT through the Empowering Local Land Trusts in Western Massachusetts grants program.

CELEBRATE WITH US!

In late fall, we will sponsor an Anniversary Celebration in conjunction with our annual meeting. We will recognize the visionary leaders who created the Land Trust and helped sustain our organization in its formative years.

If you would like to help organize or sponsor this signature event, please call the land trust at (888) 298-7284.

Sincerely,

Lisa Moczynski
President
Metacomet Land Trust, Inc.

Metacomet Land Trust is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit conservation organization.

Our mission is to protect open space and natural resources in South Central Massachusetts.

We serve the communities of Blackstone, Bellingham, Douglas, Franklin, Mendon, Millville, Norfolk, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, and Wrentham.