



THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION

Land Trust for Tennessee and Tiffany & Co. Foundation Join Duck River Highlands Neighbors to Protect Land

WATER VALLEY, Tenn. – An initiative is underway to protect the working farms, country stores, waterfalls and countless other resources that give the watersheds of the Duck River their unique character.

The project moves forward today with publication of a Land Trust for Tennessee study that documents the historic, manmade and natural resources of the Duck River Highlands. As a result of the report findings, a two-year matching grant of \$100,000 from The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is underwriting the next steps of Duck River Highlands Conservation Project to continue to build momentum for land conservation within the area.

The Duck River Highlands encompass approximately 25 square miles in northwestern Maury County, eastern Hickman County and southwestern Williamson County. The Natchez Trace Parkway passes through the center of this scenic and surprisingly intact rural landscape 30 miles southeast of Nashville.

“The Land Trust, under the direction of local residents, conducted this inventory to assess the key resources, outline options for preservation and help establish a framework by which the local communities can address development and conservation concerns,” said Jean C. Nelson, president and executive director of the Land Trust for Tennessee. “This remarkable support of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation grant will make it possible for us to use this study in sharing the special traits of this region and finding ways to be part of conserving this area of Middle Tennessee.”

The Duck River Highlands project began with a land resource study conducted at the urging of a number of area residents including Eslick Daniel and John Porter. Daniel and Porter have recently arranged for permanent conservation easement of their 220-acre Sweet Easy Farm and 108-acre Williamsport farm respectively.

The next steps of the project include community education and outreach to build interest in protecting the area’s resources and direct local landowner assistance in using conservation easements. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation grant will provide seed monies for a fund to help with transaction assistance and other costs associated with protecting lands through the use of this conservation tool.

“Throughout Tiffany’s history, we have drawn design inspiration and the precious materials from nature,” said Fernanda Kellogg, president, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation. “The Tiffany Foundation is honored to be a part of sharing and protecting the natural beauty and character of the Duck River Highlands.”

The Land Trust for Tennessee exists to preserve the unique character of Tennessee’s natural, scenic and historic landscapes and sites for future generations. It is a not-for-profit, non-government organization which uses conservation easements as its primary tool to protect land. The Land Trust for Tennessee works exclusively with willing landowners to find ways to preserve forever the scenic and natural values of their land. The Land Trust now protects 17,224 acres in 19 counties, including 2,650 in Maury and Hickman counties.

Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to the education and preservation of the arts and environmental conservation. Guided by the belief that a successful company has a responsibility to the greater community, The Foundation awards grants to institutions that preserve traditional artisanship. Support is also given to cultural institutions that foster the decorative arts. In addition, The Foundation assists organizations dedicated to conservation of natural resources from which the company draws the raw materials and the inspiration that are at the heart of Tiffany. For more information on The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, please visit www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org.

More information about The Land Trust for Tennessee and conservation easements is available at 615-244-5263 or www.landtrusttn.org.

More information about The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is available at 212-277-5900 or www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org.

###

EDITOR'S NOTE: The complete Duck River Highlands Project report is available at <http://www.sathoa.org/DRHP.html> Hi-res photos can be secured by contacting The Land Trust for Tennessee at 615-244-5263.