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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Montgomery County Lands Trust Awarded Grant for
Protection of the Swamp Creek Corridor**

On May 1st, 2003 Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) awarded Montgomery County Lands Trust a grant in the amount of \$19,000 for conservation planning along the Swamp Creek corridor. Swamp Creek is a waterway that forms the spine of an important riparian corridor extending through five townships in Montgomery County including Lower Frederick, Upper Frederick, Limerick, New Hanover, and Douglass. This important tributary connects to the Perkiomen Creek just north of Schwenksville.

Montgomery County Lands Trust will be using the grant to analyze the stream's role as a watershed, for collecting aerial photos and mapping parcels, for community education, for ground checking land parcels, and to prioritize parcels for preservation.

Free from major development, the Swamp Creek corridor is host to abundant and diverse wildlife. In the springtime, the Pennsylvania Fish and Game Commission stocks the scenic stream with trout. Preserved farms, the county's Sunrise Mill historic site, and

natural woodlands lie along the creek's path. Nearby areas include the preserved lands of the Stone Hill greenway and the Pennsylvania Game Lands in Limerick Township.

Healthy riparian stream corridors, such as those found along much of Swamp Creek, protect stream banks from erosion and safeguard water quality. Preservation of the Swamp Creek Corridor will not only maintain a connected linear habitat for wildlife, it will also provide residents with continued access to low impact recreational activity while helping to preserve the rural character of nearby communities.

Greenways such as those formed by stream corridors are one of the state's highest recreation and conservation priorities. One of the goals of Pennsylvania's statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is to protect greenways as well as cultural, historic, and scenic corridors for future generations.

--Montgomery County Lands Trust

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Montgomery County Lands Trust is a non-profit organization working to facilitate open space preservation in both the public and private sectors. By acquiring and monitoring conservation easements and by providing educational programs, we promote the preservation of open space and natural amenities in all types of communities. For more information visit our website, www.mclt.com.