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For Immediate Release

50 Newly Preserved Acres in the Unami Forest Conservation Area

February 8, 2007 Salford Township, PA – As one Salford Township parcel after another changed from farmland to development, John and Clee Williams took steps to ensure a different outcome for the fifty acres of woodlands on which they reside. Now, because of a conservation agreement with Montgomery County Lands Trust, a generous donation made by the Williams, funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and also assistance from the Montgomery County Green Fields/Green Towns program, the large forested parcel will remain forever in its natural state. **Landowners John and Clee Williams enjoyed their wooded residence since 1953 while commuting to work in the Allentown area. Jack Williams worked for the Allen Organ Company for 40 years and Clee Williams was employed by Rodale for 29 years.**

A walk with the Williams on their property yields interesting details. Maturing oak, poplar, and hickory trees cover what was once farmland and provide refuge for the woodpeckers, thrushes, hawks, and owls. The sturdy bank barn, the oldest structure on the over 250 year-old- farmstead, still stands as do scattered sections of a stone wall that serve as gentle reminders of the past.

Located in the hills of Salford Township, the property adjoins the preserved land of Whites Mill Park. Its proximity to the park, along with rich natural resources and unique ecological conditions made it eligible for both DCNR and Montgomery County open space funding. The conservation easement, completed in December, 2006, adds yet another piece to a growing block of green forestland in The Unami Conservation Area – now totaling more than 2,500 acres of permanently protected land. The Unami Conservation Area is part of a larger four-state Highlands Region designated by the United States congress for national recognition and protection.

As a non-profit conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust works to preserve and connect the natural areas, farmland, and neighborhood green spaces which contribute to our quality of life, to a clean and abundant water supply and to the health of our region's economy.

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--- Montgomery County Lands Trust