



For Immediate Release

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Worcester Conservationist Leaves Open Space Legacy

August 14, 2008 Worcester Township, PA – Long-time conservationist Schlotterer passed away at age 83 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey on Monday, July 14, 2008.

Known for his personal commitment and passion for open space, he permanently protected 17 acres of his own land in 2004 and acted as a strong advocate for saving land in Worcester Township where he lived most of his life. By donating a conservation easement to Montgomery County Lands Trust, a non-profit land conservancy based in Lederach, PA, Mr. Schlotterer ensured that his land would remain forever free from development.

For many years, Mr. Schlotterer planted hundreds of oaks, hickories, and other native hardwoods on his property, with the goal of turning the land back into the

forest it was 300 years ago. He valued the hardiness of native trees along with their ability to support diverse wildlife.

Mr. Schlotterer began partnering with Montgomery County Lands Trust in 1996, becoming one of the Trust's first members. When he saw farm after farm in other communities being turned under by the bulldozer, he realized he wanted to save not only his own land, but nearby properties from the same outcome. In 2002, at considerable financial risk to himself, he placed a large deposit on a 30-acre parcel of threatened farmland in Worcester Township -- to buy time for the Trust and the Township to secure another conservation buyer. Because of his courageous step and because of additional stewardship funds donated by Mr. Schlotterer, the parcel achieved permanent protection, and with other properties, now forms a valuable oasis of open space that includes active agriculture, natural habitat, and historic farm landscapes. Connecting properties include Merrymeade Farm -- a popular dairy farm open to the public, Peter Schlotterer's own land, the Peter Wentz Farmstead -- a 93-acre county-owned historic property, and also the Scarlett farm, saved through Pennsylvania's farmland preservation program.

In honor of Mr. Schlotterer's generosity, Worcester Township erected a brass plaque set in a boulder placed on the 30 acres that he was instrumental in conserving. From 1990 to 1998, Mr. Schlotterer belonged to the Worcester Planning Commission, working with key members John Harris and Patricia Quigley to see that Worcester Township controlled its growth and preserved its rural character.

Donations in memory of Peter Schlotterer may be sent to:

Montgomery County Lands Trust

PO Box 300

Lederach, PA 10450

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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