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For Immediate Release

**Montgomery County Lands Trust and Morris Arboretum
of the University of Pennsylvania Receive U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency Award**

June 9, 2008 – Philadelphia, PA In honor of American Wetlands Month this May, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honored Montgomery County Lands Trust and Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania at the third annual Roses and Resources workshop May 29th for their efforts to protect and restore the natural infrastructure of the communities of Southeastern, Pennsylvania.

The award presented to Montgomery Lands Trust recognized its efforts “to improve quality of life through land conservation and green communities.” Under the leadership of Executive Director, Dulcie F. Flaharty, the Trust has preserved 2,539 acres and facilitated the protection of an additional 2,500 acres throughout the region. Since its founding in 1993 the Trust has provided a variety of land preservation options through the following methods:

- Pursues voluntary land preservation through donation and purchase of conservation easements
- Addresses personal and municipal land conservation questions
- Maximizes the effectiveness the Montgomery County Open Space Program known as Green Fields/Green Towns.
- Provides municipal decision makers with smart growth strategies tailored to the unique needs of their communities through its comprehensive Green Futures program.

In its remarks, the EPA noted that since 1992 the mid-Atlantic region (PA, MD, WV, DE, VA, and DC) has lost approximately 80,000 acres of forest annually. Developed land is projected to increase from 2.9 to 5.2 million acres. With this trend, the EPA projects a loss of more than three million acres of forest and 150,000 acres of wetland by the year 2020.

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.

The Award presentation to the Morris Arboretum recognized its leadership in open space preservation, conservation, education and research. The Wetlands Month Award acknowledged the environmental and educational successes of the Morris Arboretum's restored wetland and riparian restoration demonstrations over the past decade.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is located at 100 E. Northwestern Avenue in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia. The 92-acre horticulture display garden features a spectacular collection of mature trees in a Victorian landscape. The Arboretum features numerous picturesque spots such as a formal rose garden, Japanese gardens, swan pond, meadows, and the elegant Fernery. The Morris Arboretum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For more information, please visit www.morrisarboretum.org.

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--- Montgomery County Lands Trust