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**For Immediate Release**

## **Watershed Warriors Wanted to Protect Lake Delmont and the Unami Creek**

**July 6, 2009 -- Schwenksville, PA** In partnership with the Boys Scouts' Cradle of Liberty Council, Natural Lands Trust, Montgomery County Lands Trust, and University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy is taking on the European water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). Removal of this invasive species will take place from 9 AM to 1 PM and volunteers are strongly encouraged to sign up for any or all of the following dates: July 15, July 18, July 22, July 25, July 29, August 5, and August 8.

The non-native European water chestnut with its sharp-spined seeds causes a painful misstep for people and can quickly curtail boating and

swimming. Because it spreads so rapidly, choking out other plant species, it poses a major threat to native fish and other aquatic creatures by destroying their habitat. The European water chestnut causes serious problems in the waterways of Delaware and New Jersey and is just now making its way into Pennsylvania where timely efforts can prevent further spreading. Lake Delmont is half-covered by this invasive species. One acre of this plant can produce enough seeds in one year to cover an additional 100 acres, so it is critical to act now. The plant has already begun to spread downstream from Lake Delmont into the Unami Creek, ranked a high-quality stream by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Canoes, kayaks, and waders will be used for the project with a limited number of boats and life jackets available. Volunteers may bring their own boats, waders, and life jackets to reinforce the effort. Experience is not necessary. Tools and instructions will be provided. All volunteers must register and can do so by contacting Kelly Germann at [kgermann@perkiomenwatershed.org](mailto:kgermann@perkiomenwatershed.org) or 610-287-9383. To learn more about the project, visit [www.perkiomenwatershed.org](http://www.perkiomenwatershed.org) and click on “Watershed Warriors.”

The stunning 13-acre Lake Delmont is part of a larger preserved area known as the Musser Scout Reservation, 1,200-acres of permanently protected land in Marlborough and Salford Townships, a partnership project completed by the Boy Scouts’ Cradle of Liberty Council, Natural Lands Trust, and Montgomery County Lands Trust. The Musser Scout Reservation straddles the Unami Creek in an area that conservationists have identified as a high priority in the county and state. It is home to Camp Delmont, Camp Garrison and Camp Hart and has hosted Scout activities since the early part of the last century.

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy plays a major role serving the people and communities of the Perkiomen Creek Watershed and its related tributaries by providing high-quality education programs and organizing on-the-

ground conservation efforts in our region. Funding for the European water chestnut removal project is provided by a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, administered by the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species.

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