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**For Immediate Release**

*Photo available*

## **Worcester Township Lauded for Open Space Accomplishments**

**December 7, 2010 – Lederach, PA** At the annual year-end **Montgomery County Lands Trust** holiday event held December 2nd at the Bay Pony Inn, Worcester Township supervisors **Arthur Bustard, Susan Caughlan**, and former supervisor **John Harris** received honors on behalf of **Worcester Township** for the township's outstanding open space accomplishments. Also present were representatives from the Friends of Worcester: President Kimber David and Secretary Barbara McMonagle. The Friends of Worcester is a non-profit group that plays an additional key role in achieving the township's open space goals. Township Supervisor Steve Quigley was unable to attend. Officials were honored for achieving a wide array of open space milestones with special recognition of the following:

- **Worcester Township has worked hand-in-hand with Montgomery County Lands Trust to complete the Moran Conservation project**, 81 acres scheduled for preservation by the end of 2010. The privately owned Moran property connects in one corner to the 3700-acre Evansburg State Park and lies within close proximity to Methacton High School. Identified as a Montgomery County Natural Areas Inventory landscape, a public trail will be installed as part of its conservation. Selecting this parcel as its top priority, the township used its own substantial contribution of \$375,000 to leverage \$800,000 in funding from Montgomery County and \$700,000 from Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Funds will be used to purchase the development rights and keep the privately owned land open as a preserved landscape.

- **Worcester Township demonstrates that it is progressive in its planning.** In 2004 it completed the Worcester Township Community Greenway Plan, identifying both potential trail areas and the riparian buffer lands within the identified greenway meriting protection. In 2006 the township incorporated an innovative ‘Growing Greener’ land conservation overlay district with transferable development rights options.
- **Under the Montgomery County Agricultural Lands Preservation Program, the Township has preserved an impressive total of nine farms with a combined area of 387 acres** utilizing 2.5 million dollars in joint county and state funding.
- **Working with Montgomery County Lands Trust, Worcester Township preserved an additional 350 acres in the township,** with 167 acres being co-held under easement by the Township and Montgomery County Lands Trust.

Montgomery County Lands Trust board member **J. Ross Pilling** presented the award at the year-end event attended by conservation landowners, funders, local officials, partnering organizations, and Montgomery County Lands Trust board members.

As a non-profit land 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. To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at [www.mclt.org](http://www.mclt.org)

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