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For Immediate Release

14.6 Acres along Stone Hills Greenway Preserved

September 8, 2011 – *Lower Frederick Township*

On May 23rd, Montgomery Lands Trust and Lower Frederick resident Barbara Zucker finalized the agreement to preserve her 14.6-acre property. This wooded property is part of the Stone Hills Greenway, a larger conservation area featuring lush habitat for more than 115 animal species and 229 plant species. The conservation easement for the land was donated by Barbara and her late husband Don, who was a long-time advocate of land preservation.

The property also lies at the eastern end of the 17-mile Swamp Creek Corridor. Preserving the properties along the Swamp Creek has long been a focus for Montgomery County Lands Trust because of the corridor's ecological diversity and its healthy streams that play an important role in protecting the larger watershed and our water supply. Near the head of the Stone Hills, and less than a mile from the Zucker property, is the Eva. R. Meng Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary. Owned and managed by the Valley Forge Audubon Society, the sanctuary was preserved by Montgomery County Lands Trust in 2004. Don Zucker played a role in creating the sanctuary with its trails that are open to the public.

MCLT's Director of Land Preservation, Jake Lea, spent several years talking to the Zuckers about preserving their land. After preserving a property in Maine, the Zuckers decided to go ahead with preserving their property in Montgomery County. The process took only a matter of months. Part of their easement was donated and the rest was purchased by MCLT through a bargain sale. Funding for this project was provided by the Army Corps of Engineers. The property is adjacent to another property preserved by MCLT, furthering MCLT's goal of preserving the

critical parcels in the Swamp Creek Corridor. MCLT is extremely grateful to generous and committed couples like the Zuckers who work with us to help realize shared goals.

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. To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at www.mclt.org

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- The easement was purchased through bargain sale; funding from Army Corps of Engineers
- Adjacent to the Marshall property
- Talking for 4 years

“MCLT is extremely fortunate to have this generosity that allows us to preserve another property in the Swamp Creek watershed.”

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