



For more information contact:

Lisa V. Hancock, Director of Communications
Montgomery County Lands Trust
215-513-0100
(e-mail) lhancock@mclt.org

John W. Lea, Director of Land Preservation
Montgomery County Lands Trust
215-513-0100
(e-mail) jlea@mclt.org

For Immediate Release

23 Acres Preserved on the Western End of Swamp Creek Corridor

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On June 4, Montgomery Lands Trust teamed with Rebecca Craik PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, and Mark Haskins Ph.D., VMD, to complete the agreement that protects 23 acres owned by the couple in rural Douglass Township. The couple generously donated the full value of a conservation easement while benefiting from a federal tax incentive that helps make such projects possible. (See the accompanying Op-Ed written by Montgomery County Lands Trust.)

With the pre-civil War bank barn in close proximity to the 18th-century farmhouse, a fruit orchard, a large garden, an expansive spring-fed pond, and the original stone springhouse still intact, a visit to the property feels like stepping back in time. The expansive upper field leased for growing hay gives way to a mature Pennsylvania forest that makes up half of the preserved area. The property lies at the western end of the 17-mile Swamp Creek Corridor, an important focus area for Montgomery County Lands Trust.

In his professional life at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, Mark Haskins focuses on the discovery, characterization, and therapy of large animal models of human genetic diseases. Rebecca (Becky) Craik is professor and chair of the Physical Therapy Department at Arcadia University where she teaches and conducts research. She is also editor-in-chief of Physical Therapy, her field's professional journal.

Becky and Mark like knowing their land will never be developed. Over the years they have shared not only the bounty of their fruit and vegetables, but the beauty of their farm with friends from the city who treasure the idyllic setting. "We have watched generations of families understand the value of having a picnic, wandering over an expanse, and swimming in our pond," says Becky. "Families have brought their children to enjoy the experience, and the hope is that future generations will come to enjoy this beautiful setting too."

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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