

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Scott J. Cope
Chief Program Officer
sjcope@wildlandspa.org
610-965-4397, x. 11

Christopher M. Kocher
President
ckocher@wildlandspa.org
610-965-4397, x. 23



**Wildlands Conservancy Protects Over 690 acres of Open Space in 2007
and Surpasses the 46,000-acre Mark**

Cooperating with several progressive municipalities and landowners, Wildlands Conservancy protected eleven properties, totaling 692 acres, of open space from future development. Funding for many of these properties was provided by: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Northampton County, Lehigh County, local municipalities, and donations from private landowners. “The protection of these additional properties marks a significant milestone for Wildlands Conservancy, enabling us to surpass the 46,000 acre mark of total acres protected” stated Christopher M. Kocher, President of Wildlands Conservancy.

The following properties were purchased using state, county, and township funding:

The **Charron** property is 110-acres located on the Blue Mountains in both Bushkill and Plainfield Townships, Northampton County.

A conservation easement was purchased on the **Horth** property which is 215-acres located in Northampton County and Williams Township.

Wildlands Conservancy purchased the **Camp Olympic** 102-acre property which is located within several hundred feet of the 72-acre Pool Wildlife Sanctuary and transferred it to Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County.

The **Hersh** Property is 10.5 acres and is located in Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County and it was added to Wildland's 308-acre South Mountain Preserve.

Wildlands Conservancy assisted Allen Township in acquiring a 45.18 acre property in Allen Township, Northampton County.

The following landowners have voluntarily donated their development rights to create conservation easements to protect their properties from development:

Greg and Anita **Binder** protected 34.5 acres in Lehigh Township, Northampton County.

Merrill and Nancy **Brenner** protected 18-acres in Longswamp Township, Berks County.

Luther **Campbell** protected 16.4-acres located along the Little Lehigh Creek west of the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary property, Macungie Township, Lehigh County.

The **Daddona** family protected 56.48-acres in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County.

The **Dyer, Noble, and Bracalente** families protected the 40.23-acre Coal Yard Road property in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County.

Ann Tucker **Gundry** protected 44.53-acres in Rockland Township, Berks County.

To date, Wildlands Conservancy has protected over 46,000 acres of open space in the Lehigh Valley and Eastern Pennsylvania. "The protection of our land resources is critical to the quality of life and quality of place in the greater Lehigh Valley. This significant feat would not have been possible without the support of our members, conservation landowners, state, county and municipal programs, and our partner organizations," says Kocher.

About Wildlands Conservancy

Wildlands Conservancy is dedicated to saving the natural treasures of the Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh River valley for current residents and future generations. Its mission is to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the land, water, ecological and recreational resources of the Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh River valley. Established in 1973, the Conservancy collaborates with partnerships throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to achieve its goals. As a non-profit, member-supported organization, the Conservancy has protected more than 46,000 acres of critical farmland and wildlands in 18 counties of eastern Pennsylvania. For more information, please visit www.wildlandspa.org.

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