

For Immediate Release

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Awards Celebration Recognizes Lehigh River of the Year Photo Contest Winners

Four Lehigh Valley residents were selected as winners from dozens of entries in the Lehigh River Watershed Photo Contest and will be acknowledged publicly for their skills next Friday. The contest, sponsored by Wildlands Conservancy, Olympus, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) and Dan’s Camera City, was just one component of the Lehigh River’s recognition as “Pennsylvania’s 2007 River of the Year” by PaDCNR. The press event will be held at Dan’s Camera City, Allentown, on Friday, February 15, 2008 at 4pm.

“The photo contest was designed to get people out to touch the resource while building awareness about and appreciation of this great river,” says Christopher M. Kocher, Wildlands Conservancy president. “Choosing the winners was a challenge as there were so many high quality images to select from,” he adds.

Matthew Fetters of Northampton won first place with his entry entitled “River Tunnel”, a misty, moody view of the river in Northampton County. His prize includes an Olympus Stylus 770SW digital camera, 1GB xD-Picture Card and a \$100 gift card from Dan’s Camera City.

“Autumn Reflections” by Jim Filgar, also of Northampton, took second place because of the timeless and bountiful display of autumn mirrored in and along the Lehigh Canal in Allentown. He won an Olympus Stylus 760 digital camera, 1GB xD-Picture Card and one free class at Dan’s Photo University.

Third place was awarded to Tom Gyory of Slatington for his light-hearted look at fishing at the Lehigh River. For his efforts in capturing “Relaxing on the Lehigh” he won a \$100 gift card from Dan’s Camera City.

Jill Cramer of Emmaus won fourth-place with her powerful look at a tributary waterfall as it races to the Lehigh River. “Rushing to meet the Lehigh” earned her one free class at Dan’s Photo University.

Photos were accepted from June 1 – October 31, 2007 and needed to capture the environmental richness, unique landscape, flora and fauna, human involvement, recreational opportunities or simply the exceptional beauty of the Lehigh River watershed and its surrounding landscapes. The contest was part of the year-long celebration of the Lehigh River being named the River of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

About Wildlands Conservancy

Founded in 1973, Wildlands Conservancy strives to protect and enhance the Lehigh River Valley’s parks and trails, water quality and open space. The organization has protected more than 40,000 acres of eastern Pennsylvania’s farmland and Wildlands and has educated more than 500,000 individuals on responsible environmental stewardship and management. The Wildlands Conservancy staff works out of its office at the 72-acre

Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in Emmaus, PA. For more information on the organization and its program visit <http://www.wildlandspa.org>.

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