

Conservancy purchases first 324.5 acres of PPL lands along Susquehanna River

December 31, 2010 gave the Lancaster County Conservancy another reason to celebrate because we closed on phase 1 of the 3 total phases in the PPL land acquisition project. This results in the permanent protection of 324.5 acres located along the Susquehanna River in Manor and Martic townships. Purchasing this land was made possible through the support of The Conservation Fund, the Lancaster County Natural Lands Preservation Fund, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and PPL.

These tracts of wooded land, wetland and open meadow will continue to serve as a home to native species of plants and wildlife, provide for breeding sites, and be utilized as a bird migration corridor. “When we are able to protect large areas of adjacent forests and field habitats, we are protecting habitat that supports healthier, more varied population’s of species”, states Kathie Gonick, the Conservancy’s Director of Land Protection

Deer congregate in this area, as well as other wildlife, as evidenced by sightings and their tracks left behind and through acquisition all species inhabiting this land are protected. Also, these tracts of land are recognized as possible homes to threatened species and/or species of special concern. Such species are the Putty Root, the Harbinger-of-Spring and Arrow Feather, among others.

Work is being done to develop a public trail system to link local hotspots, as well as linking together future phases of this project that will expand the public options for hiking and enjoying the out of doors by taking advantage of the scenic landscapes and the heritage surrounding the Susquehanna River. The Conservancy’s mission is to save and steward ecosystems and by protecting these key habitat areas we allow for the sustainability level, or the diversity and long term productivity levels of plants and wildlife, to only increase.