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For Immediate Release:

Berks Municipal Environmental Resource Protection Education Program Graduates

Reading, PA — The Berks Conservancy would like to congratulate the following participants in the Berks Municipal Environmental Resource Protection Education Program who successfully completed the online course work and received a certificate at the final workshop on May 12, 2010. They represent the first class of students to graduate from the program.

L to R: Judy Houck, Spring Township; Amanda Yeager, Lancaster Farmland Trust; Paul Schwartz, Exeter Township; Don Wilson, Exeter Township; Tom Snyder.

About the Berks Municipal Environmental Resource Protection Education Program: It is a partnership of Heritage Conservancy, Berks Conservancy, The Center for Community Leadership (Albright College), the Berks County Conservation District & the Berks County Planning Commission. Graduates participated in two evening programs where they learned from a variety of experts speak about the following topics:

- What is Open Space? Why should we care?
- The Role of Government in protecting the Environment
- Developing an Environmental Resource Inventory
- Setting Resource protection goals
- An overview of Resource Protection Tools & Techniques
- Using GIS to map environmental resources

Requirements for the certificate included attending both evening workshops and completing 4 of 7 on-line courses and effectively passing quizzes. Participants could choose from the following on-line classes, each of which required completion of significant reading material and passing an on-line quiz:

- Regulatory techniques
- Conservation land use techniques
- Land Acquisition and protection
- Park & Rec planning
- Water Resource protection
- Historic resource protection
- Natural and Ag resource protection

The project was a pilot project funded through DCNR and matched with other funding. The partners are evaluating how and when they will offer the program again.