



For Immediate Release:

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Natural Biodiversity's projects receive continual financial support

JOHNSTOWN - Natural Biodiversity, a nonprofit organization focused on controlling invasive plants and restoring plants that are native to our region, recently received two new grants. These grants will help Natural Biodiversity control invasive plants and educate Pennsylvanians about them. Also, Outdoor Adventures has been approved as a Pennsylvania educational investment tax credit project and the US House of Representatives has passed the Agriculture Appropriations bill that allows Natural Biodiversity to continue its conservation efforts around the state.

At its May 19, 2009 Board of Advisors meeting, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (www.pennsylvaniawatersheds.org) provided Natural Biodiversity an \$18,000 grant. This funding will enhance invasive plant early detection and response efforts within the Juniata River drainage. Additionally, grant funds will support the development of a demonstration site which showcases exemplary invasive plant control and native habitat management practices.

The second grant is from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wild Resource Conservation Program (www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf) for \$32,363. With the grant, Natural Biodiversity and a statewide advisory committee will create an educational supplement, available to schools and educators throughout Pennsylvania, that provides students with an understanding of the environmental/habitat concerns caused by invasive plants.

In addition to recent funds received, Natural Biodiversity and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (www.cfalleghenies.org) have received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to designate Outdoor Adventures (www.ohmonth.com) as a Pennsylvania educational investment tax credit project. Through this program, corporate donors to Outdoor Adventures are eligible to receive tax credits for their donations to the annual school field trip. More information is to follow regarding this opportunity for area businesses.

A new fund is now being created to house general Natural Biodiversity donations and Outdoor Adventures commitments. For more information on how to support these efforts, see the Natural Biodiversity or Community Foundation websites, or contact Mike Kane at mkane@cfalleghenies.org.

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The United States House of Representatives passed HR 2997, the agriculture appropriations bill, on July 9th, 2009. With the help of Congressman John P. Murtha, this bill secures important funding for Natural Biodiversity's work in controlling invasive plants, restoring native species, and other land stewardship initiatives throughout Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic area. This bill still needs to be approved by the Senate and President before it becomes a law.

For more information about Natural Biodiversity and these projects visit www.naturalbiodiversity.org. For additional questions, contact Natural Biodiversity at (814) 509-6036.