Children’s Heritage Garden at Pennypacker Mills Wins State Horticulture Award

Schwenksville, PA (November 19, 2012) – At a recent recognition ceremony, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society awarded Pennypacker Mills a Community Greening Award for “an outstanding public planting...improving the quality of life through horticulture.” Eighty-nine gardens were judged from throughout the tri-state area. Of those, sixty-seven were given awards. Assistant Administrator, Linda Callegari, along with several gardening volunteers, accepted the award, which was given by Drew Becher, President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

“We are blessed with very talented and passionate gardening volunteers who help plant and maintain the garden throughout the growing season. Many volunteers also assist with garden tours and the garden-to-kitchen education program that has been developed,” said Callegari. Using the extensive archives at Pennypacker Mills, it was determined what varieties of flowers and vegetables were historically planted at the site. Now called “heirloom varieties,” these plants and seeds became the basis for determining what should be planted in the garden today.

The Children’s Heritage Garden is a historical demonstration garden for youngsters and adults to learn and experience what was grown at Pennypacker Mills in the early 1900s. The garden allows children to explore the kinds of heirloom varieties that the Pennypacker family grew, how to grow and harvest the plants and seeds, and finally, how to prepare foods using Victorian kitchen gadgets that were the early versions of modern-day food preparation devices. Through garden tours, visitors can smell, taste, and touch herbs, flowers, and vegetables.

The Children’s Heritage Garden is available to visit from mid-May through September and is an excellent addition for those who visit Pennypacker Mills for free guided tours. A companion educational program is available for groups by pre-registration and pre-payment. Summer camps, scout troops, home school groups, and school classes have found this unique learning experience enables children to understand and appreciate the history of the early 1900s compared to today in a
truly hands-on way.

For more information on the Children’s Heritage Garden and other educational programs, please visit the Pennypacker Mills page at http://historicsites.montcopa.org/ and click on the Educational Programs and Hands-on Activities at Pennypacker Mills brochure. For information and to register, please call 610-287-9349.

All images provided by Pennypacker Mills and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society:

A young camper is surrounded by heirloom pole beans in one of two teepees in the Children’s Heritage Garden.
Drew Becher, President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, presents Assistant Administrator, Linda Callegari, and volunteers Rob Callegari from Lower Gwynedd, Linda Moore from Collegeville, Richard Earley from Worcester, with the award for the Children’s Heritage Garden at Pennypacker Mills.