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SCEE Welcomes New Acting Executive Director

Philadelphia, PA – June 24, 2005 - Working his way up from the Center's soil to the canopy of its trees as the Director of Land Restoration, Dennis Burton has a new title: Acting Executive Director.

Dennis Burton, who has held the position of Director of Land Restoration at the Center since 1999, is already a well-known face for Center supporters. His involvement with the Center began in 1998 as a consultant for the Center's Facilities Master Plan, where he contributed the expertise in land restoration he gleaned from many years as Woodlands Manager at the Central Park Conservancy in New York City.

“Working with the Center's board and community, I glimpsed an opportunity to make a real difference in restoring the Center's land. When the board decided to create a new position, my wife, Mary, & I chose to make the move to Philadelphia,” says Burton. For much of his first year at the Center, Dennis spent his time walking the property, observing the seasonal changes, and envisioning the strategies that would begin to turn deer and invasive-ravaged woodlands back into a thriving ecosystem.

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SCEE Acting Executive Director

Now, six years later, the Center has become renowned in the field of land restoration thanks to Dennis' leadership. Several significant restoration sites, like the Center's restoration showcase, Penn's Native Acres, are thriving. He reflects, "As I look to the future of the Center, I see many opportunities for us, as an institution, to join with the community in a spirit of partnership and cooperation. I look forward to the challenges that this new role will bring." As a new neighbor of the Center himself, and an active participant in local civic groups, Dennis certainly holds unique insight into neighborhood concerns.

Dennis succeeds Executive Director, Tracy R. Kay, whose tenure spanned the transition years following the retirement of founding director Richard "Dick" James and most recently the Center's teaching partnership with the Green Woods Charter School.

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