

News release from
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700 RIDERS EXPECTED FOR JUNE 14 FRENCH CREEK IRON TOUR “CYCLING FOR OPEN SPACE”

Phoenixville, Pa., June 8, 2009 – More than 700 cyclists are expected to ride in the French Creek Iron Tour “Cycling for Open Space” event on Sunday, June 14, starting at the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds, 61 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton, Pa..

The 2009 Iron Tour has distance options of 10, 20, 35, 50, 66, 75, and 100 miles. There’s something for every type of rider, from a short ride through breathtaking countryside to a century route that visits numerous quaint villages and historical landmarks. The start and finish location at the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds provides an excellent launch into unspoiled country and a great place to gather afterward for fun, free food and music.

A new addition for 2009, the 10 mile ride is great for families and those reacquainting themselves with their bicycles. The 20 mile distance contains some hills and will take riders over three historic covered bridges. At the midway point for both rides, there is a rest stop at the charming village of Yellow Springs.

Along the routes, riders will pass “Preserved Forever” signs indicating properties that protected by conservation easements that ensure they will be preserved as open space.

In its 7th year, the French Creek Iron Tour has acquired a good following among cyclists, and has earned a reputation for its first-class rest stops and gourmet food. Al Gilens, a participant in last year’s Tour, called it “the toughest ride that I have been on this year—and enjoyed the most because of the wonderful, thoughtful, cheery volunteers...the lunch [is] truly exceptional, and I would highly recommend this ride to every cyclist I know.”

Information on the French Creek Iron Tour, descriptions of all distance options, schedules and more are available at <http://irontour.org>. On-line registration continues until 5:00 PM on June 11. Cyclists may register in person on the day of the event.

About the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc.

Land Preservation

Since its establishment in 1967, the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust has protected 8,650 acres in northern Chester County through purchases, conservation easements and public/private partnerships. It works with landowners,

townships, the state and county to purchase and monitor conservation easements, create parkland and preserve environmentally sensitive land.

Trails

Trails provide public access to preserved land, recreational opportunities and beautiful views along northern Chester County's Exceptional Value waterways. With funding from the state and county, the Trust is engaged in the acquisition and development of the 10-mile French Creek Trail from Warwick County Park to the Kennedy Covered Bridge in East Vincent Township, a 2.7 mile extension from Elverson to St. Peters on the Boars Back Railroad right-of-way, and the planning of the 6-mile Pickering Trail, which will follow the creek in West Pikeland Township from the Mill at Anselma to the township border at Clover Mill Road.

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