

## Seneca conservancy adds nearly 100 acres to Eldred game lands

ELDRED — The Seneca Highlands Conservancy Inc. has transferred a parcel of 98.8 acres to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's State Game Lands #301 south of Eldred.

The land is wetlands along the Allegheny River formerly owned by the International Paper Co.

The land was acquired by the conservancy several years ago and held temporarily in its name while the required title and survey work

was done by the Game Commission.

The group has focused its attention since 1984 on acquiring wetlands for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the Eldred area. These lands are purchased directly from local landowners as they become available, and then are passed on to the Game Commission after going through an extensive approval and review process.

Almost all of the land involved is wooded, said John Young of the conservancy. Although wetlands generally have little commercial value and contribute little in the way of tax revenue to local government, they provide essential wildlife habitat as well as great scenic beauty. Under game commission management, these properties are also one of the county's major tourist attractions, thanks to the number of hunters they attract to the area each year, said Young.

State Game Lands #301 near Eldred is one of a very small number of completely new game lands created in recent years, and was accepted for inclusion in the game lands system due to the wide range of wildlife it supports.

Several additional small acquisitions near Eldred have also been made over the past two years, but it may be another year or so before these will be ready to transfer to the game commission, said Young.