

Land Marks

Protecting Land Forever



A buck visits the lower field at Flintstone.

Through the Looking Glass

Thoughts, Life, and the Pull of the Natural at Flintstone BY DAVE MINGES

He watches and moves in the woods with the piercing intensity of a raptor. Scientist, writer, gardener, hunter, grandfather — Larry Glass senses and thinks deeply about nature and his place in it. A place subtle, complex, diverse, growing, changing, and fascinating. Flintstone is that place, and he is Flintstone's person.

Natural time and place drew Larry early. The Berkshires, Youth Conservation Corps, and the National Outdoor Leadership School shaped his connections and convictions. An urban career in the Washington, D.C. region in medical research and biotechnology complemented the Western Connecticut outdoorsman and naturalist philosopher in him.

But the land always called, as he wrote, "We believed that we had acquired a farm ... It became clear before long, however, that the farm actually had acquired us." Shortly after Flintstone acquired Larry and his wife Charla, a retired social worker, they chose to preserve it in a conservation easement co-held since by The Potomac Conservancy and Maryland Environmental Trust. Flintstone is a gentle ongoing experiment, a labor of love, a love of labor: tree plantings and habitat creation, forest management, hand built rock walls, and organic gardening. Deer, bear, turkey, and coyotes move through the 90 acres of wooded ridges and meadow hollows near the Green Ridge State Forest in Allegheny



Charla and Larry Glass at Flintstone, their 90-acre property in Allegheny County.

County. Larry hunts for venison, but prefers to call in the turkeys just to see how many will gather. Modern techniques, ancient wisdom, and plain common sense all have a place in his land stewardship. The balance is always slightly in motion.

He shares a very personal, nonjudgmental view of the human/land relationship, writing that, "The work that we have done
Continued on page 4



Director's Note

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Dear Friend of MET,
 Since my last communication, a lot has happened here at MET! As you will see in the pages of this edition of Land Marks, we continue to serve a visible and proactive role as Maryland's only statewide land trust, leading and partnering with diverse organizations, landowners, and others to conserve and safeguard significant parts of Maryland's most treasured places. I want to also highlight two significant events that are giving shape to MET's future — in healthy and positive ways.



Beginning last winter and culminating with a historic day-long retreat in Annapolis, our Board of Trustees, staff, and area representatives, along with a few of our closest partners and advisors, engaged in an important planning effort that culminated in a day long Board and staff retreat in Annapolis, Maryland. These discussions and conversations focused on a number of important aspects of MET's work, and sought to focus on the overarching question: how must MET evolve in order to deepen the impact of its mission, strengthen the role of land trusts, mobilize new people and resources for land conservation, and expand the constituency for land conservation in Maryland? Many exciting ideas were generated and debated during the retreat and the resulting findings and direction are being assembled and organized into a new strategic plan and case for support. This plan will be the subject of further Board discussion and ultimate adoption later this fall. As we look to MET's upcoming 50th anniversary, we believe this new plan will provide new energy, focus, and commitment as we pivot to the essential work of the future. Stay tuned.

Another significant piece of MET history unfolded this spring with the passage of Senate Bill 4 (Senator Joan Carter Conway) by the Maryland General Assembly. This bill was signed by the Governor in May and provides for the expansion of MET's Board of Trustees to 19 members by this October, establishes new processes for MET's board recruitment and selection, and allows increased opportunities for new Board service through a broader, more diverse and regularly cultivated candidate pool. This is exciting and timely in light of our new strategic plan and our goal of attracting more diverse viewpoints while expanding MET's connections in Maryland. As we prepare for these changes, MET is actively seeking citizens of Maryland to serve on its Board that reflect Maryland's diversity of geography and ethnicity AND who bring a variety of professional and personal experiences that will be critical to our future effectiveness.

Of course all of us play an important role in achieving our collective vision for healthy, whole communities where we are all connected — to the land and each other. I hope all of you will continue to be ambassadors and partners as we seek ways to better deliver MET's vital mission in support of this vision.

Bill Leahy II
 Director

2016 Maryland Land Conservation Conference and Summit

MET hosted the 2016 annual Maryland Land Conservation Conference on May 5 and co-hosted with Partners for Open Space, the first Land Conservation Summit on May 6. More than 150 people from over 80 organizations from across the Chesapeake Bay region were represented at the conference and summit. The annual land conservation conference is the only statewide event of its kind in Maryland and provides an opportunity to unite land trusts, conservancies, governmental organizations and other partners who support land protection.

Day one featured educational workshops, peer-to-peer networking and an evening reception at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute. Mark J. Belton, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided the keynote address. The conference also offered a variety of tracks including nuts and bolts of organization development, innovative partner projects, emerging and hot topics in the conservation community and the latest stewardship innovations.

The Summit, held at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, featured a meeting opportunity for both conservation practitioners and others engaged in creating a healthy and sustainable Maryland. The purpose of the Summit was to start exploring new ideas, reveal new partnership opportunities, and strengthen collective efforts to create a prosperous future for all of Maryland. This meeting served as a starting point for a conversation that Partners for Open Space and MET will be continuing in the months and years ahead.

Please visit MET's events page on our website for presentation materials, photos and for updates from the Summit working group. On behalf of the Maryland Environmental Trust, we greatly appreciate your role in making this annual event a huge success!

Conference partners and sponsors included: *Appalachian Trail Conservancy; Brown Advisory; Chesapeake Conservancy; Civil War Trust; The Conservation Fund; Land Trust Alliance; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Historical Trust; The Nature Conservancy; O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP; Partners for Open Space; S. H. Muller & Associates, LLC; The Trust for Public Land; and Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP.*



Mark J. Belton, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources delivers the keynote address at the 2016 Maryland Land Conservation Conference.



2016 Land Conservation Summit speakers and panelists (from left to right): Dale Green (Morgan State University), Aleya Fraser (Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture), Colby Ferguson (Maryland Farm Bureau), Ann Jones (Partners for Open Space), Miriam Avins (Baltimore Green Space), Dr. Maria Brown (John Hopkins School of Medicine), Bill Leahy (MET).

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Thank you to our conference partners for their support!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO



Through the Looking Glass *(continued from page 1)*



The field and hollow.



Nosing around the neighborhood.

for Flintstone reflects an evolving philosophy that values unobtrusive support and sustenance of land ... I can't honestly say whether I would be as dedicated if the utility bills or my dinner depended on its output." Knowing that living with, caring for, and earning from the land always means compromise, he continues, "It would be well for those of us whose sacrifices are marginal to respect and support those whose sacrifices cut deeper."

Larry sees the primordial pull of nature in us all, even amid modern life. Time at Flintstone reconnects his suburban extended family to the pace and perspective of green space.



The wary local ... before exile.

His son, Jordan, helped mark boundaries and plant trees. Grandchildren measured each other by vegetables in the garden. Time slows, the world quiets, senses sharpen, and blood pressure drops. Native, endangered, exotic, naturalized, and even invasive, many species find a place here. Pulling his pipe from a wry smile, Larry tells a tale of catch, release, and coexistence — at a distance. "We came across a five foot long timber rattlesnake near the house. Though legally protected, such a snake might not usually slither away from such a meeting. But this one



The Glass grandsons growing in the garden.

was banished to a far corner of Flintstone, thanks to the help of the herpetologist from the Appalachian Laboratory who lives over our garage — and his snake tongs." Such serpentine serendipity seems more possible in the rich combination of life here.

While bulldog Panda and shepherd-hound Jett romp nearby, Larry relishes the morning walks and discoveries. He notes the subtle changes — some in response to human activity, but most that are older than humans. He knows that though the land has



A bullfrog in the garden pond.



Larry Glass and Jed Rau of the Potomac Conservancy.

a way of healing itself, he can help support it just as it helps to support him. That mutual respect and appreciation lights the view through this Glass of Flintstone.

Written excerpts from “Flintstone” by Larry Glass in *American Nature Writing 2001*, John A. Murray (ed.), Oregon State University Press, 2001 (ISBN 0-87071-552-6).



The turkey turn-out at the forest edge.



Winter at the pond.

2016 Hughes Award & Hollmann Grants



2016 Janice Hollmann Grant recipients receive kudos from MET and SHA at 2016 Maryland Land Conservation Conference (left to right): Michelle Grafton (MET), Bill Leahy (MET), Deborah Bowers (Carroll County Land Trust), Hal Delaplane (Conservancy for Charles County), Rachel Toker (Urban Ecosystem Restoration), Megan D'Arcy (Eastern Shore Land Conservancy), Kate Patton (Lower Shore Land Trust), Barbara Hopkins (NeighborSpace Of Baltimore County), Frank Allen (Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust) and Sandy Hertz (State Highway Administration).

During the evening reception on May 5, MET honored the 2016 recipient of the **Aileen Hughes Award** Megan D'Arcy. Megan, who is Stewardship Manager of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), demonstrated outstanding leadership and creative thinking in her field. Megan's extraordinary work includes: building upon ESLC's robust land and easement stewardship program; fostering superior landowner relations through improved communications and recognition efforts; playing a significant role in ESLC's current effort to obtain land trust accreditation renewal; developing a successful Volunteer Land Stewards program that has trained 44 volunteers to assist with annual monitoring of all ESLC protected lands; and integrating new and innovative technologies into ESLC's stewardship program.

MET also recognized eight local land trusts, *Burkittsville Preservation Association, Carroll County Land Trust, Conservancy for Charles County, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Lower Shore Land Trust, NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust and Urban Ecosystem Restoration*, who were presented with the 2016 **Janice Hollmann Grants** for innovative projects in conservation, outreach and stewardship programs. The Maryland State Highway Administration provides matching funds for these grants annually to individuals and organizations to

support their conservation, outreach and stewardship programs, or to honor outstanding conservation and/or environmental efforts. The award is named in memory of Janice Hollmann who co-founded the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, and served on the Severn River Commission.



MET Board of Trustees Vice Chair Hon. S. Jay Plager presents the 2016 Aileen Hughes Award to Megan D'Arcy, Stewardship Manager at Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

MET Accepts 36 Acre Conservation Easement Conveyance from Howard County

In August of this year, MET accepted a conservation easement conveyance from Howard County, Maryland on a 36 acre portion of the county owned Belmont Manor and Historic Park near Elkridge, Maryland. The park is operated by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks as a conference center and site for weddings, private parties, and environmental education programs. The park, which totals 68 acres, is entirely surrounded by the Patapsco Valley State Park, and also contains the historic house known as “Belmont Manor,” which dates from the 18th century and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Belmont Manor itself is located outside the area of the MET easement, but is already subject to an existing architectural preservation easement co-held by Maryland Historical Trust and Preservation Maryland. One of MET’s most active local land trust partners, the Howard County Conservancy, has a significant presence at the park and operates a number of public access programs for the county school district and other groups out of the existing carriage house on the portion of the property covered by the MET easement.

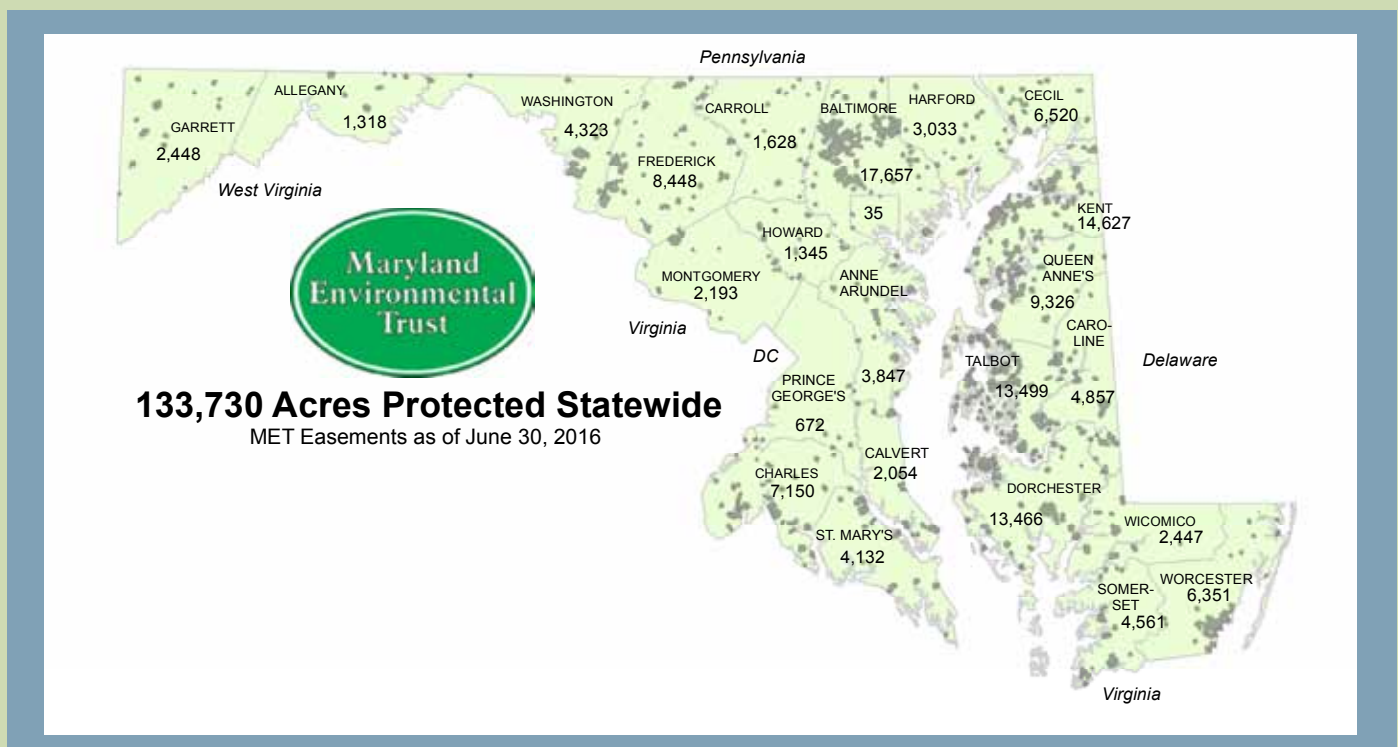
The conveyance was made to MET as part of a transaction involving Howard County transferring development rights from the park to eligible receiving parcels elsewhere in Howard County in accordance with the county’s zoning regulations. The county will be able to transfer 71 development rights from the 36 acres that are subject to the MET easement. Placement of the easement also extinguishes these rights for use on the property.

The easement helps protect the scenic and historic rural character of the park, particularly the scenic views from Bel-



Belmont Manor. Photo by Howard County Recreation & Parks.

mont Manor and from the surrounding state park. As long as the property is owned by a government entity, the easement permits continued use of the 36 acres for a public passive recreational park. The natural features of the easement parcel consist mainly of rolling topography, open meadows, and lawn, as well as scattered trees and hedgerows. As MET seeks to expand partnerships and opportunities for public engagement in land stewardship and education, the property could serve as an important site for future programming and visibility.





2016 KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL AWARD RECIPIENT

Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners

BY HALEY WAITES

Did you know that 61% of hives in Maryland were lost between 2014-2015 in a 12 month period? Or that there are 400 different species of bees in Maryland alone? I learned this while photographing a presentation by 2016 **Keep Maryland Beautiful** award recipient **Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners** in Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. Master Gardeners Mary Yee and Bob Bates explained the life of bees and how important they are to Maryland's environment as pollinators. Their goal is to educate more of the public and raise awareness about protecting the health of native bees who have been dying at an alarming rate. The significant loss is most likely due to a combination of habitat loss; the use of dangerous pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and other diseases that affect the bees.



Master Gardeners Mary and Bill pose for a picture after their presentation in front of one of their posters that shows the life cycle and anatomy of bees.

Though bees are being affected significantly by human activity, there are ways we can help support the pollinators we depend on. Some examples of what you can do include: making gardens and homes more bee-friendly by planting more flowering plants; adding small rocks or sticks to a water feature you might have to allow bees to drink from it in the heat of summer; and, refraining from using harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides in gardens and on lawns. You can also help by

The Master Gardeners show off part of their hive, revealing honeycombs, workers (females) and drones (males), and larvae that all play an important part in maintaining the hive.



Master Gardener Mary lifts up a section of the hive that will be shown during their presentation in a safely enclosed viewing box.



Master Gardener Bill takes a section of the hive box off to reveal the active bees inside before calming them down with smoke to allow him to examine the hive.

supporting local beekeepers' colonies by buying organic honey at your local farmers markets, or supporting organizations such as the Master Gardeners BeeKeeping project in your community.

To find out more about what the Master Gardeners bee keepers do and when and where you can attend one of their free demonstrations, visit their website at <https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/master-gardeners/beekeeping>.



Bees buzz around the opening of their hive at Quiet Waters Park, one of several hives maintained by the Master Gardeners in Maryland.



Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Awarded



2016 KMB grant recipient *Pigtown Main Street* organized volunteers at the annual *Bloom the Boulevard* event to collect litter, spread mulch, plant flowers and prune tree limbs. The event also included workshops that educate local residents about the harmful effects of litter on the Chesapeake Bay.

In May 2016, MET awarded \$9,600 in grants to schools and nonprofit groups engaged in environmental education and community beautification projects through the **Keep Maryland Beautiful** (KMB) program. These grants are partially funded by MET and the Maryland State Highway Administration and are given annually.

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award is given in honor of the first executive director of the KMB Program. These grants are awarded to an ongoing project or activity that has demonstrated success in solving an environmental issue, whether local or statewide. The award recognizes organizations that have been actively educating people in their community about litter prevention, community beautification, or eliminating or reducing the causes of a local community problem.

This year's recipients of the Margaret Rosch Jones Award are:

- **AA County Master Gardeners Beekeeping Project, Fiscal Mgr MD 4-H Foundation, Inc.** (Anne Arundel County) to broaden educational and outreach programs to protect the health of honeybees, native bees, and other pollinators;
- **The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture Inc.** (Montgomery County) for the purchase of a watershed model and carrying case to teach preventable measures to eliminate the effects of pollution in our watershed;
- **Lake Roland Nature Council** (Baltimore County) to place composters near a new playground, adjacent to the education center, along with interpretive signs about composting;



- **Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy** (Talbot County) to support Stewards for Streams, which focuses on community outreach and engagement in restoration projects to beautify the City of Cambridge, while reducing stormwater pollution in the Choptank Watershed;
- **Pigtown Main Street** (Baltimore City) for the revitalization of the Washington Boulevard commercial corridor in Historic Pigtown, a neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore;
- **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** (Anne Arundel County) Habitat restoration of a 30,000 sq. ft. area of degraded woodland on St. Luke's tidewater property. Award helped to purchase native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants and remove invasive plant species;
- **Youghiogheny River Watershed Association** (Garrett County) for a stream riparian zone restoration project in the Casselman River Watershed near Grantsville.

The Bill James Environmental Grant is given in honor of Senator Bill James who drafted legislation creating MET and incorporated the activities of the Governor's Committee to KMB.

This year's Bill James Environmental Grant recipients are:

- **Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School** (St. Mary's County) for the creation of a Monarch Way Station on school grounds. The project provided students an opportunity to learn about erosion and runoff and the reasons for habitat loss effecting Monarch populations;
- **Maryland Historical Society** (Baltimore City) in partnership with the National Aquarium designed a live interactive

virtual fieldtrip which works to foster an understanding of how human activity has impacted the health of the Chesapeake Bay;

- **Mountain Laurel Garden Club** (Garrett County) working with 60 Environmental Science students and their teacher at Northern High School in Garrett County to establish a native plant meadow in an open field behind the school;
- **Queen Anne's County High School (AP Science Class)** (Queen Anne's County) for the design, construction and implementation of an outdoor classroom near an artificial wetland on the school's property. The project involved building benches and picnic tables, a floating platform that will allow for sampling within the stormwater retention pond, and a shade structure displaying a model green roof;
- **Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art** (Wicomico County) for funding to replenish its Flying WILD and Growing Up Wild educator kits;
- **Watson Hall Montessori School** (Baltimore County) for the construction of a sensory garden and outdoor exploration space. The garden will attract butterflies, birds, and bees through the planting of a large variety of native plants.

Many of these grants encourage youth and students to develop a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for their natural world, stimulate a better understanding of environmental issues and help reduce or resolve an environmental problem.

For more information about the KMB grant program, please visit MET's website or contact Wendy Stringfellow at wendy.stringfellow@maryland.gov. The deadline for applications is March 31.



Ellen H. Kelly Receives McHarg Award

BY ELIZABETH BUXTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VPC AND FORMER MET DIRECTOR

The Valleys Planning Council presented MET's Trustee Emeritus Ellen Harvey Kelly its prestigious McHarg Award on May 12 at St. Thomas Church in Owings Mills. Ellie Kelly is a dedicated land conservationist and has worked for over 40 years protecting the state's Program Open Space (POS) funding. Maryland is now a leader among all states in land preservation and this is due in large part to the hard work, determination and perseverance of Kelly. She has helped to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders.

Ellie received this award for her lifetime efforts to preserve open space and fight urban sprawl.

"She has been a role model for all of us at the Valleys Planning Council, having led by example and using the tools available to protect the land," remarked Henry Jenkins, VPC board member. "Ellie rolled up her sleeves in Annapolis every year to fight for a fully funded POS, and has gotten results." Ellie has led efforts to prevent these dedicated funds from being diverted to other unrelated programs by the General Assembly. Some administrations took all the POS funds and left no money for preserving of open space.

In 1969, the Maryland General Assembly created POS through the institution of a transfer tax of 0.5 percent on every real estate transaction in the state. This program is constantly threatened. Despite its incredible track-record, the positive cash-flow of the transfer tax is an obvious target during budget deliberations in Annapolis. This year Governor Larry Hogan signed HB 462, a bill that restores and protects state funding to transfer tax-funded land conservation, preservation and recreation programs.

A longtime preservationist, Kelly has been involved in the environmental movement since the 1960's. She served on the Rachel Carson Council, National Parks and Conservation



The Valleys Planning Council presented Ellen H. Kelly its prestigious McHarg Award on May 10.

Association, Irvine Nature Center, The Nature Conservancy/ Maryland Chapter, the Governor Harry Hughes Litter Control Commission, and she served as Legislative Chair for the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland and was a founding board member of Scenic America. She has also been involved for four decades with the MET, and is currently trustee emeriti. She also serves on MET's *Keep Maryland Beautiful* grants committee.

MET LAND TRUST ROUNDTABLES

Maryland Environmental Trust's next series of Land Trust Roundtables will be held to discuss land trust stewardship challenges and a shared vision to address these challenges. This series of land trust meetings will tackle big issues around technology, volunteers, recordkeeping, stewardship responsibilities and work to build a solution.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING TUESDAYS:

NOVEMBER 29, 2016

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

JUNE 27, 2017

More details, including RSVP information and meeting locations will be available soon. Please check MET's events page for more information.



Former MET Chair James R. O'Connell Steps Down After 10 Years of Service

MET would like to thank **James R. O'Connell** for his hard work and leadership at MET. Mr. O'Connell joined the Board of Trustees in 2006 and served as Chair from 2010 to 2014. He worked tirelessly on multiple issues and helped MET move forward in land conservation. MET celebrated its 1,000th conservation easement on more than 122,000 acres when Mr. O'Connell became Chair. He helped grow that number to over 1,070 easements during his tenure. When Mr. O'Connell's term ended in May 2016 he thanked his fellow trustees, officers, staff and the Department of Natural Resources and said, "service as a MET trustee was a fantastic experience and I will continue conservation work with Sugarloaf Conservancy, Inc."



Mr. O'Connell is a senior partner at O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP. He graduated from the University of Maryland and Georgetown Law School. He also served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. He has been a generous donor and has two MET conservation easements on his property in Dorchester County.

MET is pleased to know that Mr. O'Connell will continue to be engaged with the Trust and the land conservation community!

MET's Stewardship Program Says Goodbye to Valued Staff Member

MET is grateful for the dedicated service of **Joan R. Lally**. Joan retired this past spring with more than 13 years of state service; nine of those being with MET's Stewardship Program. As the Quality Control Coordinator, Joan oversaw MET's conservation easement records and assisted with fielding inquiries from the public about existing easements. She especially enjoyed monitoring easements and meeting new MET landowners. In 2007 when the Easement program was short staffed, Joan stepped in to assist with the completion of several conservation easement projects. Her commitment to and enthusiasm for MET's mission was unparalleled. We will miss her.

Thank you Joan for all your years of dedicated and loyal service to MET and MET's conservation easement landowners!



2016-2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of January, July and August. The board meetings begin at 6:30 pm and are held at 100 Community Place, Third Floor, MHT Board Room 3.218, Crownsville, Maryland, unless notified otherwise. These are public meetings. Please contact MET if you plan to attend.

The following dates have been reserved for the MET Board meetings:

2016

October 3 | November 7 | December 5

2017

February 6 | March 6 | April 3 | May 1 | June 5
September 11 | October 2 | November 6
December 4

Easements sometimes require advance notification and/or written approval for certain activities. Please see MET's website for information and application. If you are unsure whether notification or approval is required, contact MET's stewardship staff to help make that determination. Activities that might require approval or notification include:

- Constructing any new buildings or structures
- Renovating or enlarging existing structures
- Conveying property (provide contact information on new owner)
- Subdividing property
- Recording any other encumbrances on property (e.g. right-of-ways, ingress/egress, other easements)
- Entering wetlands mitigation or restoration programs
- Changing use of property (e.g. from forested lands to agricultural lands)
- Making a boundary line adjustment
- Harvesting timber

For complex matters, it may take a minimum of 30 days for MET to review and approve the proposed activities. Please contact Jon Chapman, Stewardship Program Manager, at 410-514-7904 to discuss your plans. All requests should be made in writing at least three weeks prior to the scheduled board meeting. Thank you!

New Faces at MET



MARY BURKE

Trustee

MET is excited to welcome Mary Burke as a Trustee. “I’m thrilled to be joining the board of MET and am honored to be part of conserving the special places in Maryland,” said Ms. Burke. Previously she served as MET’s Calvert County Area Representative from 2013 to 2016. Ms. Burke is the Associate Director for Educational Services for the Land Trust Alliance where she serves as the managing editor for the Standards and Practices Curriculum, the most authoritative resource on private land conservation in the United States. She also produces webinars and other resources for land trusts, including *Field Guide*, a quarterly newsletter on issues of importance to boards. A long-time Maryland resident, Ms. Burke has taught literature and writing at the University of Maryland where she also earned her Ph.D. in English Literature. Ms. Burke also holds a master’s degree in English Literature from Georgetown University and a degree in journalism from the University of Texas.



LYNETTE TULLY

Easement Stewardship Specialist

Lynette Tully joined MET in June as our Easement Stewardship Specialist. “I am excited to be working closely with our stewardship team, our co-holders and landowners to monitor properties and advance our conservation stewardship goals,” said Lynette.

Lynette grew up in the mountains of Virginia and has always had a passion for conservation and protecting the valuable ecosystems and resources our land has to offer. She has an Environmental Science degree from the University of Mary Washington and has worked in natural resource conservation and environmental education in California and Virginia.

In her spare time she enjoys running and kayaking with her dog Bay.



TANYA MEKEAL

Office Manager

Tanya Mekeal joined the staff in March as the Office Manager. “I’m excited to join such a dynamic team and I am looking forward to being a part of MET’s mission to connect people to the land,” said Mrs. Mekeal. She comes to us from the Office of the Attorney General, where she worked with the Department of Housing and Community Development as a paralegal for over nine years.

Tanya holds a bachelor’s degree in Biology from Hood College and is a native “Annapolitan.” In her free time, Tanya loves to kite-board, run and spend time on the water with her family.

HALEY WAITES

Summer Volunteer/Intern

When I received a call saying I was going to get to work with an organization that dedicates itself to land conservation in my home state, I couldn’t be happier. One of my biggest passions is environmentalism, and the Maryland Environmental Trust allowed me to fuel that passion by inviting me to intern with them this summer. At MET I’ve been fortunate enough to meet many of the wonderful people responsible for protecting Maryland’s most treasured landscapes and historical properties. However, I’m even more fortunate to be able to say I got to participate in some of the amazing work they do.

This summer I was able to work on the outreach program for MET and begin a new video interview project for the MET *Keep Maryland Beautiful* grant program. Interviewing recipients on why they want to keep Maryland beautiful has been nothing short of inspiring. There are so many people in Maryland who are dedicated to beautifying and protecting Maryland’s landscapes and who are so passionate about what they do to keep Maryland beautiful. I am very thankful for MET giving me the chance to connect with some of the award winners, and for the opportunity to work with them on some of the many important projects they do.



Help MET to Promote Land Conservation and Stewardship!

The Maryland Environmental Trust depends on the generous contributions of individuals, companies, and foundations to fulfill our long-term mission. MET plays a unique role as a statewide organization dedicated to strengthening land conservation and stewardship by working with landowners, local land trusts, and other local and regional partners. Your gift ensures we are able to staff and implement our most critical programs.

Help Strengthen Local Land Conservation!

Unrestricted gifts from our supporters allow us to implement programs and activities that help increase opportunities for land conservation, strengthen capacity of other groups, and inspire stewardship in local communities. This includes our annual conference and land conservation round tables held throughout the year.

Become a Member of the Open Space Legacy Society!

Like the thousands of landowners who have made the decision to permanently safeguard their land, you can make Maryland Environmental Trust a part of your legacy. By including MET in your estate plans, you are ensuring we will have the funds necessary to meet the long-term challenge of safeguarding easement permanence and ensuring a strong land conservation movement endures in Maryland.

Whether you make an unrestricted contribution, donate to our stewardship fund, or support a special project or program, your gift to MET is appreciated and essential to our future.

Please consider a **tax-deductible** contribution to MET this year. With your support, we can continue to protect Maryland's diverse natural, scenic, and historic resources. Thank you for your support!



MET staff: Michelle Grafton, Wendy Stringfellow, Lynette Tully, John Turgeon, Tanya Mekeal, Dave Minges, Megan Benjamin, Director Bill Leahy, Ann G. Carlson and Jon Chapman.



Volunteers in Action!

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Visiting MET's conservation easements is a huge undertaking that involves our staff, board members, Maryland's local land trusts, and many land trust volunteers. As Maryland's statewide land trust, MET is responsible for monitoring and preserving 1,180 easements covering 133,730 acres. The Volunteer Land Stewards visit easements, meet landowners, and document changes to preserve the conservation values that make these landscapes special.

In 2015/2016, MET volunteers worked on 188 easement field files representing 20,110 acres. Between field and office, 34 Volunteer Land Stewards and the two Office Volunteers working on Stewardship projects contributed more than 400 hours of service valued at \$9,200. While this is a huge donation of time and talent to MET, it's really a donation to the land, air, water, and people of Maryland.

We would particularly like to thank veteran volunteer David Godfrey for his beautiful photos – we are always looking for great shots for our social media, newsletter, and calendar. Our special thanks and best wishes to Shan Allen, Jeffrey & Sharon Dillon, and Joseph Yates as they relocate to other states. MET deeply appreciates the Volunteer Land Stewards and their work across Maryland. Thank you!

If you are interested in volunteering contact Dave Minges at 410-514-7908 and david.minges@maryland.gov.

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