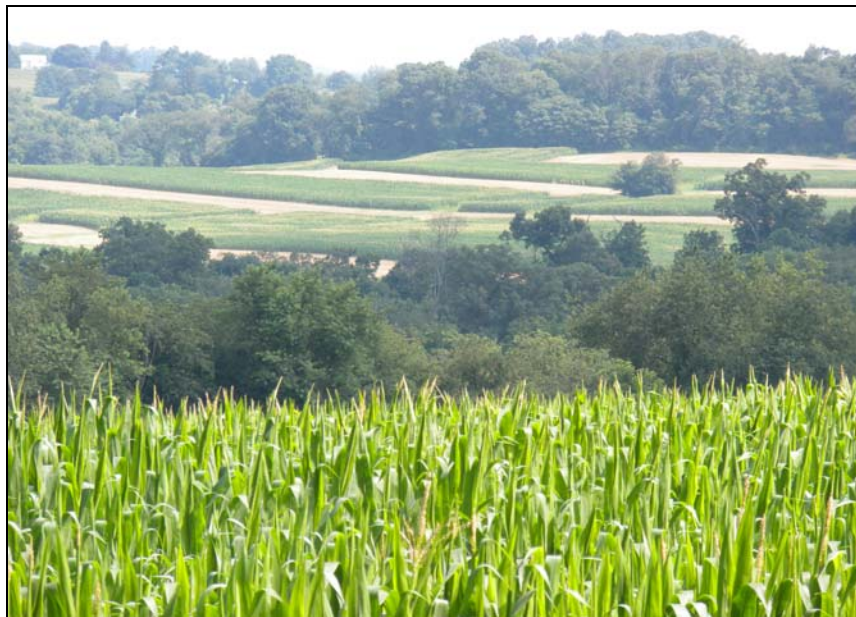




Protecting Land Forever

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013

JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013



Maryland Environmental Trust
100 Community Place, 1st Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032
410.514.7900
www.dnr.maryland.gov/met

FY2013

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James R. O'Connell (CHAIR)
James W. Constable (VICE CHAIR)
Honorable S. Jay Plager (TREASURER)
Ann H. Jones (SECRETARY)
Daniel P. Beard
Doris Blazek-White
K. King Burnett
Goodloe E. (Geb) Byron, Jr.
David Greene
Constance Lieder
James B. Morris
Steven Quarles

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Senator Roy Dyson
Delegate Dana Stein
Tom McCarthy (Governor's Representative)

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Adam D. Block, Baltimore County
Donald N. Briggs, Frederick County
Steve Bunker, Charles County
Mary Burke, Calvert County
Bill Crouch, Anne Arundel County
Charlotte Hawes, Ph.D., Kent County
Nancy Isaacson, Frederick County
Margaret Worrall, Dorchester County

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Ajax Eastman
Ellen Kelly
John C. Murphy
Henry A. Virts

ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS

GENERAL

Paul Cucuzzella
Kristen Maneval
Roger Medoff

STAFF

Elizabeth Buxton- Director
Megan Benjamin - Central/ Western
Region Planner
Kevin Bull – Seasonal Steward
Ann Gutierrez Carlson - Eastern Region
Planner
Jon Chapman- Stewardship Program
Manager
Catherine Ford - Program Assistant/Keep
Maryland Beautiful Coordinator
Carol Holland -Bookkeeper
John Hutson- Easement Program
Manager/ Southern Region Planner
Michelle Johnson - Land Trust Assistance
Coordinator
Joan R. Lally- Stewardship Assistant
Wendy Stringfellow – Communications and
Development Coordinator
Vaughn Weitzman – Seasonal Steward

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Environmental Trust 2013 Annual Report is prepared and submitted to the Governor and General Assembly of Maryland, pursuant to the requirements of the Natural Resources Article, §3-203.10.

Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1967 as a charitable organization. MET has state support and funding, with an independent Board of Trustees. In 1969, MET was assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for organizational purposes.

For more than four decades MET has worked with the citizens of Maryland and partner organizations to foster the appreciation and conservation of scenic open space, natural areas, and working farmlands across the state. With one of the largest portfolios of preservation and conservation easements in the nation, MET is a leader in its field. MET is responsible for perpetually stewarding these properties, some of Maryland's most iconic and culturally significant landscapes and properties.

MET's Creation

In 1967 MET (then referred to as "the Trust") was established "to conserve, improve, stimulate, and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic, and cultural qualities of the environment, including, but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities, open spaces, buildings or any interest therein, and other appurtenances pertaining in any way to the state. Through educational and other means, the Trust shall encourage and motivate the populace of the state and others to do so and shall promote continuing interest in and the study of these matters. The purpose of the Trust is of general benefit to the citizens of the state, and it is charitable in nature."

MET's establishment, powers, and responsibilities are codified in Natural Resources Article § 3-201. MET has characteristics both of a unit of the Department of Natural Resources and an independent land conservation organization, and serves as the only statewide land trust. The statute clarifies MET's duties and directs it to:

- (1) Receive annual appropriations;**
- (2) Sponsor research and education programs pertaining to scenic or cultural qualities of the state and of financial grants to public and private agencies;**
- (3) Acquire and hold real and personal property of scenic or cultural importance to conserve it;**
- (4) Accept gifts, and apply their value to the general purposes of the Trust;**
- (6) Assist other units of the state and public or federal agencies and foundations in furtherance of MET's mission; and**
- (7) Report annually to the Governor and to the General Assembly on MET's activities during the preceding year and provide recommendations or requests to further the purposes of MET.**

While MET holds fee title in several properties, the vast majority of its property interests are in the form of conservation easements donated by landowners (and, in some cases, purchased using various sources of funding). Generally speaking, a conservation easement may be defined as a legally binding, recorded agreement between a landowner and MET which serves

to restrict future development activities on the land and thereby to protect it.

Governance

MET is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or their designees, are ex officio members of the Board. The remaining 12 trustees are elected by the Board each year for a term of four years. In addition, the board can appoint up to 12 area representatives to assist in carrying out the powers and duties of MET.

Staffing

In addition to the Director, who is hired by the Board, the staff includes a Conservation Easement Program Manager, a Stewardship Program Manager, a Land Trust Assistance Coordinator, a Volunteer Coordinator, three regional Natural Resources Planners and administrative support staff including seasonal and long term contractual employees and consultants. MET also relies on a corps of 30 trained volunteers to assist with the regular monitoring of 1,049 easement properties held by the organization. MET operates in an office currently located in the People's Resource Center in Crownsville. At the conclusion of FY13, MET staffing was approximately 12 positions including full-time, part-time, and temporary staff.



MET staff with Governor O'Malley.

Mission and Programs

MET has four key focus areas:

- (1) To provide strong leadership in the negotiation, acquisition, and recordation of new conservation easements and to hold such easements in perpetuity for the benefit of the people of Maryland;**
- (2) To serve as a responsible steward of land already protected by such easements;**
- (3) To provide training, technical assistance, and support to non-profit land trusts in the state; and**
- (4) To educate and provide outreach, including the administration of the Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) program, as well as other supportive activities.**

MET pursues this work through five core programs: Conservation Easement Acquisition, Stewardship, Volunteer, Education and Outreach including KMB, and Land Trust Assistance. MET administers the KMB program that provides annual grants to schools and non-profits for environmental and educational projects.

Partnerships with other local, state, and federal government agencies, local and regional land trusts, private, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector are critical to the ongoing success of MET. Among state agencies, a particularly close working relationship is maintained with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Planning, the Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). MET works with over 50 land trust and conservation organizations including The

Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy and the Civil War Preservation Trust. MET is an active member of the Land Trust Alliance, the national association for land trusts.

Funding

MET receives its operating capital from several sources. In fiscal year 2013, \$789,674 of state funds was appropriated to MET. This included \$522,759 in general funds, \$51,898 in special funds and \$215,016 in reimbursable funds (SHA and DNR as Coastal Zone Management and Program Open Space [POS] administrative fees). In addition, MET received grants from several foundations and corporations and contributions from individual donors totaling \$48,325. The summary of MET's Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year 2013 is included in the Appendices of this Report.

Conservation Easements and Their Stewardship

Conservation easements - their negotiation, acquisition, recordation, and stewardship – is a central part of MET activities. Easements are the primary mechanism by which MET works to accomplish its mission of preserving open space throughout the state of Maryland. Most of Maryland's recent permanent land conservation has been, and for the foreseeable future will be, in the form of less-than-fee interests in real property, specifically, recorded legal instruments known as deeds of conservation easements. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and an eligible organization that restricts future activities on the land to protect its conservation values. The value of a conservation easement is the difference between the property's fair market value before and after the imposition of permanent development restrictions on the property.

MET currently holds more than 1,040 conservation easements, covering over 129,000 acres, in perpetuity. Such conservation easements protect an important variety of scenic open space including targeted ecological areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, forests and heritage areas statewide, and in so doing assist in achieving broader public policy goals. The importance of the Maryland State Income Tax Credit Program (a valuable incentive for land conservation) and the charitable contribution deduction for donation of perpetual conservation easements allowable under the federal Internal Revenue Service Code are key contributors to fostering gifts of conservation easements to MET and other land trusts.

Conveyance and Perpetual Stewardship of a Conservation Easement

MET staff members work with landowners to assist and guide them through the process of conveying a conservation easement to MET. The process, which may take from a few months to more than a year for completion, typically includes the following: landowner consideration of easement donation, site visit to the subject property by MET staff, research regarding subject property by MET, draft of conservation easement by MET, action (acceptance, acceptance subject to changes, or rejection) by MET Board of Trustees regarding proposed easement, follow-up site visit to the property by MET staff, preparation of baseline documentation report regarding the property by MET staff, ratification/approval by the Board of Public Works (in most situations), final preparation of deed of easement and execution by landowner and Director of MET, and recordation of deed of easement.

After the deed of easement is recorded, the long term work for MET begins. The

"forever" deed restriction imposed with the gift and legal recordation of a conservation easement carries with it the responsibility of stewardship and public trust. Accordingly, the success of MET in negotiating and recording over 1,040 easements has brought with it increased responsibilities relating to easement stewardship. As more and more easements are recorded, requisite stewardship of those easements will increase accordingly.

The stewardship process - critical to the integrity of any easement program - consists of a range of activities essential to protecting land on which easements are donated in perpetuity. Key components of the MET stewardship program include: landowner support, education, and assistance relating to such issues as land management practices and interpretation of specific easement provisions (regarding, for example, property subdivision or amendment to deed of easement); documentation and records management (to ensure, for instance, accurate details of ownership, boundaries, and structures for easements held); regular site visits to property under easement; and upholding the public trust to ensure correction of easement violations, preferably through voluntary action by the landowner but, where necessary, with counsel from the Office of the Attorney General.

MET significantly enhanced its already-effective stewardship program in Fiscal Year 2013. Among its many accomplishments, MET successfully developed stronger partnerships with public and private partners, including the completion of many new cooperative agreements, thereby fostering more efficient preservation and stewardship of open space throughout the state.

MET also progressed toward streamlining its processes for easement stewardship and meeting *Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices* with benchmarks relating to property baseline documentation, file documentation, records management, site visits, and enforcement of deeds of easement restrictions. Perhaps most importantly, MET worked diligently to enhance working relationships and focus on the provision of technical support, education, and assistance to those through whom the success of its mission is ultimately made possible: the landowners who so graciously have donated conservation easements on their properties.

Conservation Easements Acquisition and Stewardship: Notable Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2013 was another extraordinary year for MET in advancing its mission of acquiring, recording, and stewarding conservation easements. The numbers are inspiring: 1,276 acres were protected on nine easements, and 642 properties received stewardship visits.

Other notable highlights:

- Held the tenth anniversary celebration of the volunteer program at Boordy Vineyards.
- Held a successful statewide conference at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights for the land trust community with 140+ attendees.
- Hosted a reception with Governor O'Malley at the Government House for 100+ easement donors.
- Designed a 2013 calendar for distribution to the public depicting MET properties.
- Continued partnership with Civil War Trust on "Saving Maryland's Critical Civil War Battlefields"

funded by transportation enhancement funds from SHA.

- Awarded grants totaling \$34,054 to schools and non-profit organizations.
- Held an outreach event in Frederick County at the Salisbury family home (MET easement) for prospective easement donors in the Middletown Valley.
- Presented to LEAD Maryland Class VIII Fellows at Serenity Farms in Charles County as part of a three-day series of seminars and field trips based upon the theme of Land Use, Preservation, Planning and Zoning.
- Attended Choose Clean Water Conference in Baltimore. Director participated in week-long leadership training sponsored by Land Trust Alliance (LTA).
- Drafted and mailed over 700 letters to MET easement landowners from the Governor encouraging them to help promote the renewed tax incentives and donated conservation easements to MET. Staff followed up and made personal contact with the recipients.
- Created a display for the DNR Tawes Lobby featuring Civil War battlefield protection. Considered one of the best interactive displays in DNR history.

Lands Owned by MET

While the MET mission is accomplished largely through its conservation easements program, MET also has acquired land in various regions of the state. MET currently owns approximately 120 acres of land, acquired primarily through gifts from individuals.

Keep Maryland Beautiful

The functions and activities of the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland

Beautiful (KMB) were transferred to MET in 1973. Since that time MET has awarded KMB grants annually and further developed the program to include the Bill James Environmental Grants, and the Margaret Rosch Jones and the Jan Hollman Awards for projects that focus on environmental education. The funding for these awards has been made possible through the support of SHA.

Accreditation

The land trust movement in the United States has grown rapidly over the years and has become more professional, thanks in large part to the LTA. The LTA has promulgated *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and provided funding to MET and other land trusts in Maryland to advance these practices and support strategic planning. The LTA has also sponsored the Land Trust Alliance Commission, an independent program of the LTA to verify a land trust's ability *“to operate in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner and ensure the long-term protection of land in the public interest.”*

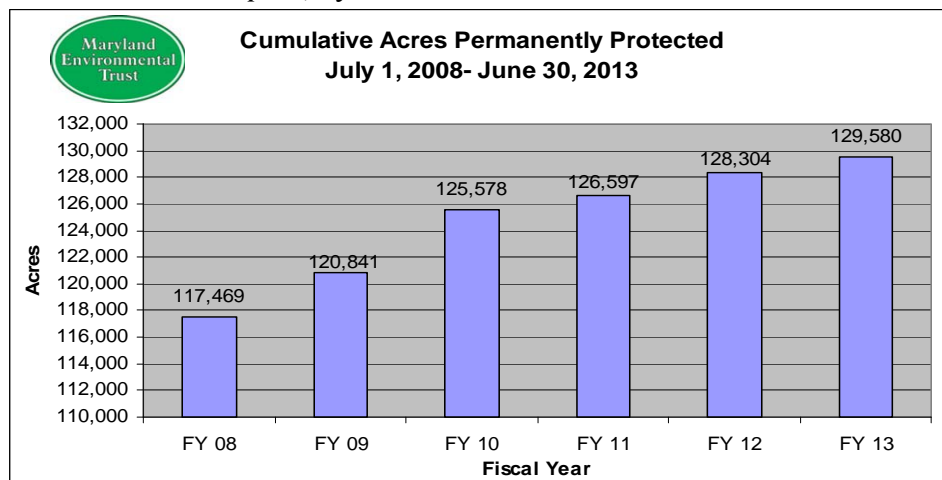
As part of its strategic planning process, with assistance from the Land Trust Alliance, the MET Board commissioned an *Organizational Assessment Report*, by the

Solid Ground Consulting Group, which specializes in strategic planning for land conservation organizations.

Completed in 2011, the assessment provides recommendations in seven areas of organizational effectiveness, including: *“1) Defined Constituency, 2) Strategic Plan, 3) Fundraising, 4) Organizational Structure, 5) Board Development, 6) Land Transactions-Land Management, and 7) Conservation Planning.”* In FY 2013, the Board continued to work to improve its organization effectiveness and prepare for accreditation.

Conclusion

For MET, 2013 was a year of great achievement despite the uncertain future of the federal enhanced income tax incentives for donations of easements. Ever mindful of the outstanding contributions of its many donors, partners and volunteers, MET expresses sincere appreciation to all who so generously given of their time, talents, and resources to foster open space land conservation throughout Maryland.



CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

From the forested mountain tops of Garrett County to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland boasts an ecological diversity and scenic beauty rivaled by few states in the nation. MET works with private property owners to permanently protect these valuable natural resources with conservation easements. A conservation easement is a legal agreement entered into voluntarily by a landowner and a government entity or land trust that permanently limits the uses of the land in order to protect its scenic, agricultural, woodland, wetland or habitat conservation values. An easement allows landowners to continue to own, use, and manage their property, and sell it or pass it on to their heirs. Conservation easements offer great flexibility and are tailored to fit a landowner's vision and goals for the property. The donation of a conservation easement is a reflection of a landowner's commitment to conserving scenic vistas and water quality for public benefit, ensuring the future viability of farming and forestry, and preserving the rural character and natural beauty of communities all across Maryland.

OVERVIEW

In the 2013 fiscal year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) MET had three Regional Conservation Easement Planners soliciting, negotiating and completing conservation easements. This year MET protected a total of 1,276 acres on nine properties statewide.

MET accepted its first two conservation easements under its urban easement policy. In June 2012 MET adopted a

new policy to provide guidance for accepting conservation easements in urban areas. This policy makes it possible for MET to partner with urban land trusts to help people connect to urban open space, parks, community gardens, and enhance greenways and waterways. MET now considers co-holding conservation easements on properties within an urban setting if the property possesses significant conservation and public benefit.

WESTERN-CENTRAL REGION (Allegany, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Carroll, Garrett, Frederick, Harford, Washington)

A total of 98.41 acres were permanently protected in the western and central region in FY2013. The two easements that comprise the acreage were both located in Baltimore County. A total of 27 acres of Targeted Agricultural Areas and 3,600 feet of scenic road frontage were protected through the easements in the region in FY13.

Elizabeth Fenwick donated a 27.41 acre easement to protect scenic farmland along Tufton Avenue in Baltimore's Worthington Valley. Tufton Avenue is recognized as part of the "Horses and Hounds" Scenic Byway by the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration. The Scenic Byway connects areas featuring landscapes shaped by the fox hunting and steeplechase traditions of the area. The property is an integral part of the predominantly rural agricultural setting of this section of the Byway. The property has approximately 1,700 feet of frontage along Tufton Avenue and is

within a Priority A/B (highest priority) Targeted Agricultural Area. There are 405 acres of protected land within one mile of the property.

The Estate of Hamilton Hall donated a conservation easement (post-mortem), on historic Mt. Welcome, to carry out the wishes of Hamilton and his late wife, Jacqueline Blunt Hall. Jacqueline was a descendent of Samuel Walters, patriarch of the family which developed the Waltersville quarry and built the house known as Mt. Welcome in 1750. Mt. Welcome is a mid-18th century farmstead with various outbuildings and a family cemetery located on 71 acres along Old Court Road in Granite.



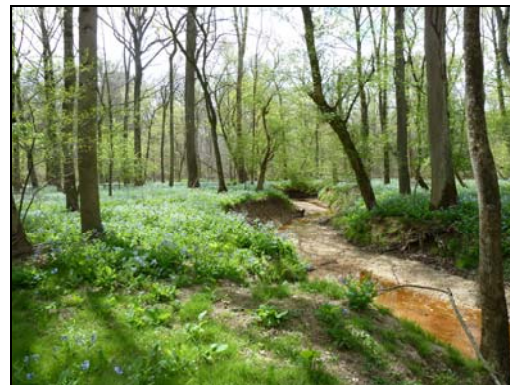
Mt. Welcome quarry in Baltimore County.

MET partnered with the Maryland Historical Trust to protect this Baltimore County historic landmark that is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property contains approximately 1,900 feet of scenic road frontage on Old Court Road. Development of the property would hinder the scenic character of the local rural landscape. The conservation easement will provide the permanent protection of the historic buildings and landscape as described in the National

Register of Historic Places as well as protection of the scenic view of forest, productive fields, and working landscape along the Old Court Road for the benefit of those traveling said public road. The easement also protects 1,800 feet of stream channels with a 100 foot buffer along Granite Branch, a tributary of the Patapsco River. There are 499 acres of protected land within one mile of the property.

SOUTHERN REGION (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's)

In Anne Arundel County, MET partnered with Scenic Rivers Land Trust and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) to protect 250 acres of heavily wooded stream valley along the Little Patuxent River. The woodland area, within view of Ft. Meade and Route 32, provides habitat for a variety of species including herons and state listed threatened fish. The easement will also enhance water quality and provide passive recreation and outdoor education opportunities. The District of Columbia's Department of General Services helped preserve the area — which they also manage as part of a larger 827 acre property in Anne Arundel County.



Virginia Bluebells along floodplain in Anne Arundel County.

EASTERN REGION (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester)

A total of 927 acres were permanently protected in the eastern region in FY2013. Of the six properties protected, two are located in Dorchester County, two in Talbot County, one in Wicomico County and one in Queen Anne's County. All six of the easements are co-held with land trust partners. A total of 326 acres of Targeted Ecological Area, 376 acres of Targeted Agricultural Area and over four miles of scenic road frontage were protected through easements in the eastern region in FY13.

In Dorchester County, the Commissioners of East New Market donated an easement on 9.634 acres in the Town of East New Market to both MET and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC). This is the first urban easement MET staff have worked on. By granting an easement to MET, the Commissioners ensured that this parcel will forever be used as a park. The property, now known as Friendship Park, has 165 feet of scenic road frontage along Railroad Avenue, which is part of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railway Byway. Friendship Park is located in the



East New Market Park located in Dorchester County.

East New Market National Register Historic District and adjacent to a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

MET and ESLC have permanently protected 226 acres of farmland along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway from development through a conservation easement. Anna Farm LLC conveyed the bargain sale easement. It consists of 181 acres of agricultural land and 40 acres of woodland, and includes extensive forested shoreline along Cabin Creek, a tributary of the Choptank River. This family farm is an integral part of the area's agricultural setting and provides travelers with scenic views of open, agricultural fields backed by dense forests. The property has approximately 2,100 feet of scenic road frontage along Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway; 1,075 of the 2,100 feet are along both sides of the road, approximately 2,200 feet of frontage on Baker Road and 1,300 feet of frontage on Pea Hill Road. The property has approximately 1,300 feet of frontage along Cabin Creek. The entire property falls within a Targeted Ecological Area and is within a Priority A/B (highest priority) Targeted Agricultural Area.

In Talbot County, a total of 196 acres were protected. MET and ESLC worked with Meadow Farm Joint Venture LLP to protect a 194 acre property. 105 acres are actively farmed, approximately 80 acres are forested (including the forested riparian area along Wootenau Creek) and approximately seven acres are forested wetlands. The property contains approximately 3,393 feet of scenic road frontage on Chapel Road, a public roadway. Approximately 650 feet of the

frontage is along both sides of Chapel Road. The portion of the property south of Chapel Road falls within a Priority A/B (highest priority) Targeted Agricultural Area. The property is in the gateway to rural Talbot County, at the edge of an area dominated by active farmland interspersed with large forest patches. The Town of Easton is less than one mile to the west and south of the property and the lands to the north and east of the property are active farmland and forest lands. The property is within one mile of 474 acres of protected farmland.

The Jennifer Stanley Trust donated a conservation easement to MET and the ESLC on 1.34 acres in the town of Oxford. This is MET's second urban easement. The property consists of one acre of woodlands and 0.34 acre of open field and a portion of the shoreline on Town Creek, a tributary of the Tred Avon River. It has 200 feet of scenic road frontage along Third Street, 224 feet of scenic road frontage along Town Creek Road, and 344 feet of scenic frontage along Town Creek. This easement requires public access on a waterfront parcel in Oxford. The easement will allow the public to enjoy the woodlands and waterfront of the property and protect the health of Town Creek. The Stanleys purchased the property in the early 1980s to protect the wetland and a portion of Town Creek that was yet undeveloped but was in danger of being developed. Through her donation, Mrs. Stanley has ensured that the woodlands and habitat will be protected forever and has created a public park in Oxford.

In Wicomico County, thanks to Charles Smith, Jr., 225.69 acres of woodlands is

protected forever. MET together with the Lower Shore Land Trust, Inc. helped Smith protect his land. The 225.69 acre woodland is adjacent to a 101 acre Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program conservation easement. Together, the easements create a 327 acre block of protected land. Portions of the property fall within a Targeted Ecological Area.



Smith conservation easement in Wicomico County.

In Queen Anne's County, MET worked with federal, state and local partners to purchase a conservation easement on 270 acres of farm and forestland along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway. The property has approximately 4,000 feet of scenic road frontage along the Byway, 3,240 feet of frontage on Clannihan Shop Road and 4,490 feet of frontage on Brick School House Road. Bill and Scarlett Milliken conveyed a bargain sale easement on their 270 acre farm consisting of 139 acres of tilled agricultural land, 123 acres of woodlands, and a 6 acre pond. Approximately 60 acres are prime farmland and another 53.9 acres are farmland of statewide importance. The Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS), a division of DNR, reports that the property is within the headwaters of Island Creek South. This creek supports the Yellow Lance (*Elliptio lanceolata*)

Mussel. According to the WHS, the state status of the Yellow Lance is uncertain, meaning that there is not enough information known about it currently to list it, but is considered possibly rare in Maryland.



Yellow Lance Mussel, © Copyright Art Bogan 2010

The presence of this freshwater mussel means that conditions are favorable for this stream to support other species of freshwater mussels, and possibly state-listed species of mussels. The conservation easement was purchased using federal transportation funds set aside for the protection of scenic views along the Byway. MET, together with ESLC, Queen Anne's County and SHA, have been working cooperatively to permanently protect key properties along the Byway and protect the scenic, rural and agricultural character of this landscape.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The donation of a conservation easement to MET is a major investment in the continued health, beauty, and enjoyment of Maryland's open spaces and the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting one's property does not stop with the signing of the conservation easement. MET and cooperating local land trust staff and volunteers continue to look after the land on an ongoing basis through regular monitoring of conservation properties. Stewardship involves a larger set of issues, which can include addressing landowner questions or

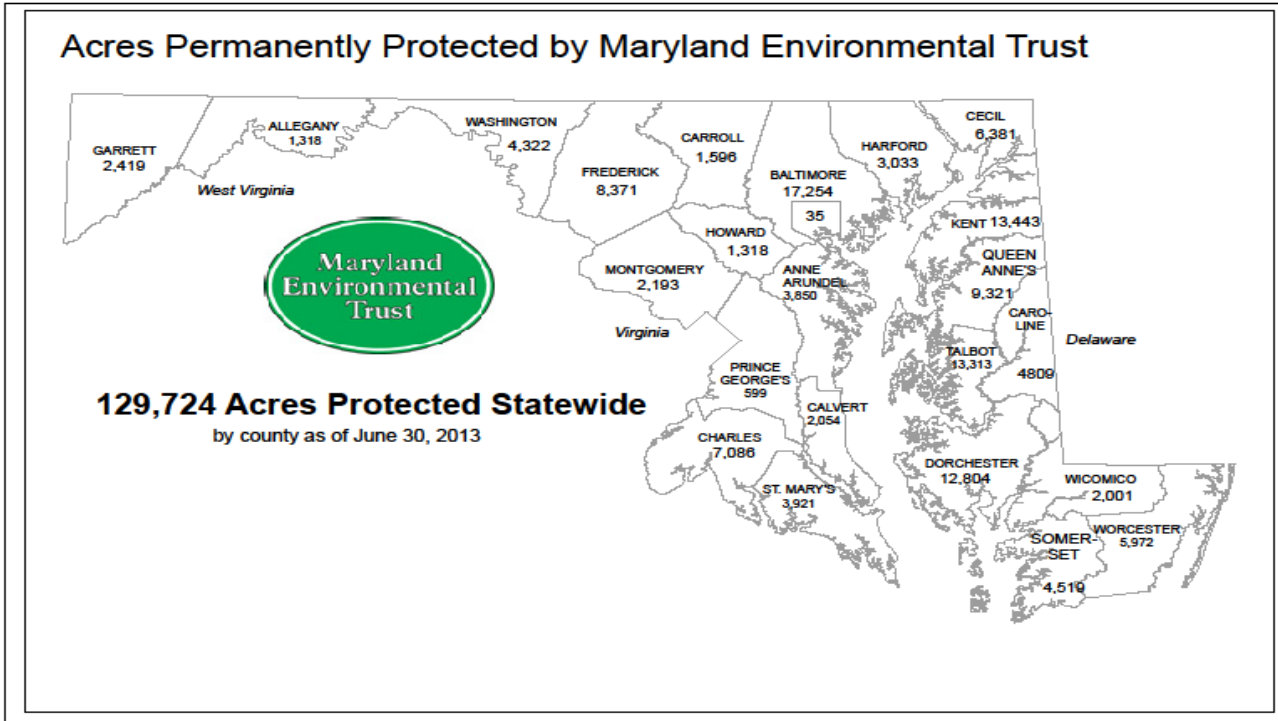
concerns or requests for MET to approve various proposed structures or activities on the property. MET works with local land trusts in the Land Trust Assistance Program to ensure that stewardship and monitoring procedures comply with or exceed national guidelines.

In FY2013 MET and its cooperators together conducted monitoring visits to 642 easement and fee properties covering 77,212 acres, which represents 61% of the Trust's easement portfolio. This was a 22% increase over FY12 monitoring accomplishments. Monitoring visits are conducted in order to document current conditions and assess compliance with easement requirements.

As part of its Land Trust Assistance Program, MET staff assists land trusts with the training of volunteers and the inspection of co-held easement properties, with enforcing easement terms, and the implementation of recordkeeping and documentation protocols. This year MET staff assisted land trusts with the monitoring of 20 properties, and land trusts monitored an additional 249 properties on their own.

At the end of FY2013, MET was tracking approximately 15 active stewardship issues, enforcement matters, and violations on easement properties. Over the course of the year, five matters were resolved with the assistance of the Office of the Attorney General. Staff presented 10 landowner requests for approval of activities, including an amendment. All but two requests were approved. One was tabled for more information, while the other was withdrawn by the applicant. Staff routinely review and deny activity

requests that are clearly prohibited by easement language, only presenting to the Board those that have some likelihood of favorable consideration or which the landowner is insistent on having formally reviewed.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program has become a valued component of the Stewardship Program. MET relies on approximately 30 trained volunteers to monitor its easement properties and assist the staff as the inventory of protected lands grows.

At the end of its tenth year, the Volunteer Program provided much needed “feet on the ground” inspections and documented reports on the current land uses of the easement properties. This year, 18 trained volunteers monitored 61 easements on over 7,900 acres throughout the state. The Volunteer Coordinator position was vacant for more than six months during FY2013.

In the office, over 78 volunteer hours were devoted to MET’s Baseline Project. The Baseline Project involves digitally scanning and organizing baseline information. In total MET Volunteers contributed over 295 hours to MET’s Volunteer Program.

Staff presented a training session in monitoring procedures for board members and volunteers of the PTLT on December 7, 2012 held at the historic Summerseat Farm in St. Mary’s County. Ten attendees were provided training on the theory, objectives, and procedures of monitoring, and then led outside to conduct an on-the-ground monitoring inspection of this MET and PTLT jointly held easement property.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of MET’s Volunteer Program. This achievement was celebrated on May 2,

2013 at MET’s third annual Volunteer Appreciate Event at historic Boordy Vineyards in Baltimore County. Volunteers joined MET board and staff for lunch and a tour of the vineyard, which is permanently protected by an MET easement.



Thirty current and former volunteers celebrated the 10th Anniversary of MET’s Volunteer Program at Boordy Vineyards.

2013 Volunteers

Ann Burchard
Susan Cohen
Carrie Dike
Sharon Dillon
Jeff Dillon
Christina Dzingala
David Godfrey
Joe Hasuly
David Hobson
Carol Holland
Peter Holland
David Kieffer
Nancy Kieffer
Elizabeth Schumann
Werner Schumann
Kevin Smith
Stuart Stainman
Charles Wells

LAND TRUST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MET serves as the statewide land trust. Local land trusts of which there are over fifty in Maryland, work with and are assisted by MET. The Land Trust Assistance Program supports the work of land trusts. The program is funded by a grant from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Coastal Program, from the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), and the National and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Land Trust Assistance Program helps build and sustain the quality and effectiveness of the state's land trusts, and encourages participation in a number of national programs, specifically the *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Local land trusts are not-for-profit corporations designed to protect land within their geographical area from development, using conservation easements, gifts or purchases of land, limited development, conservation buyers, or promotion of existing local, state, or federal easement programs. These land conservation organizations range from small groups operated solely by volunteers to large land trusts with multiple professional staff. A directory



Hummingbird in Queen Anne's County.

of Maryland land trusts can be found on the MET website. (See list on p. 17).

The Land Trust Assistance Program provides land trusts with:

- Technical Assistance – information and training, including webinars and the annual Maryland Land Conservation Conference
- Financial support, through the Land Trust Grant Fund, the Janice Hollmann Grant and the Aileen Hughes Award
- Targeting of Conservation Easements – information on state land conservation priorities
- Organizational support to ensure adoption of Land Trust Standards and Practices
- Conservation Easements and Land Conservation – taking a lead in drafting new easements and easement amendments
- Cooperative Agreements

MET adopted a new model Cooperative Agreement in 2011. This agreement establishes roles for MET and land trust partners and outlines principles in land conservation. A signed cooperative agreement is required for land trusts to receive MET grants and potential state tax benefits for fee simple owned properties.

MET signed cooperative agreements with the following local and regional land trusts:

The Town of Chevy Chase
Neighborspace of Baltimore County, Inc.

MARYLAND LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

MET held the 13th annual statewide Land Conservation Conference on April 23, 2013 at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights. Over 140 land conservationists from 80 organizations across the Chesapeake Bay region convened to hear Peter Forbes, senior advisor and cofounder of the Center for Whole Communities in Vermont. Forbes inspired attendees with his message on the importance of connecting people with the land. After his key note address, Forbes led a workshop on community engagement and provided tips for how land conservationists can collaborate with other organizations to integrate land health, social justice and the human spirit.

The day long conference provided training for land trust staff and board members, networking opportunities and a venue to exchange ideas about the challenges of perpetuity and other issues related to land conservation. Topics included: *Advocacy, Innovative Technologies, Stewardship, Endangered Indigenous Landscapes, Watershed-wide Land Conservation Prioritization, Managing Agricultural Easements to the Long Term, Maryland Natural Area Initiatives, TMDL's and Best Management Practices for Marcellus Shale Gas Development in Maryland.*

The Maryland Land Conservation Conference was made possible by the generous financial support from *The Abell Foundation, The Chesapeake Conservancy, The Conservation Fund,*

The Land Trust Alliance, The National Park Service-Chesapeake Bay Office, O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP and Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP



Peter Forbes delivers the keynote address.



Maryland Land Conservation Conference at the Maritime Institute.



Jared Parks (Eastern Shore Land Conservancy Protection Specialist) and Steve DuBoyce (Naval District Washington, U.S. Navy).

Maryland Land Trusts and Land Conservation Organizations

CENTRAL REGION

Baltimore Green Space
Caves Valley Land Trust
Cecil Land Trust
Garrett Park Conservation Trust
Greater Ruxton Area Foundation
Greater Sandy Springs Green Space
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
Harford Land Trust
Howard County Conservancy
Land Preservation Trust
Long Green Land Trust
The Manor Conservancy
Mount Washington Preservation Trust
Neighborspace of Baltimore County
Rockburn Land Trust

EASTERN REGION

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Lower Shore Land Trust

SOUTHERN REGION

The Accokeek Foundation
African American Land Trust
American Chestnut Land Trust
Annapolis Conservancy Board
Bay Land Trust
Black Swamp Creek Land Trust
Conservancy for Charles County
Cove Point Natural Heritage
Crownsville Conservancy
Kensington Land Trust
Magothy River Land Trust
North County Land Trust
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
Scenic Rivers Land Trust
Southern Calvert Land Trust

WESTERN REGION

Allegheny Highlands Conservancy
Carroll County Land Trust
Carrollton Manor Land Trust
Catoctin Land Trust
Potomac Conservancy
South Mountain Heritage Society
Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Farmland Trust
Biophilia Foundation
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
Civil War Preservation Trust
The Conservation Fund
The Humane Society of the United States
Wildlife Land Trust
Maryland Alliance for Greenway
Improvement and Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
Patuxent Conservation Corps
Trust for Public Land
The Valleys Planning Council
Wetlands America Trust –
Ducks Unlimited

GRANTS AND AWARDS

MET presented a number of grants and awards at the Maryland Land Conservation Conference.

DILLON AWARD

Alverta and Louise Dillon, sisters and retired school teachers, donated a perpetual conservation easement and bequeathed their entire Garrett County property to MET in 1984.

Alverta and Louise were dedicated naturalists and were enthusiastic about conservation and enhancement of the many resources found on their land. Their generous bequest is maintained as an endowment to support the activities and mission of MET, in accordance with the terms of the gifts. The Dillon Award is made annually by MET to a landowner(s) who exhibits outstanding conservation and/or environmental efforts.

This year, MET awarded two recipients — Jennifer Stanley and the Commissioners of East New Market — for their work in preserving unique landscapes of the Eastern Shore.

Stanley was recognized for her generous donation of a conservation easement on 1.34 acres in the town of Oxford to MET and the ESLC. The conservation easement will become a small public park, allowing guests to enjoy the property's woodlands and the waterfront of Town Creek. Jennifer and her late husband, Edmund Stanley, Jr., purchased the property in the early 1980s to protect the wetland and a portion of the creek from pending development.



MET Treasurer Jay Plager (L) and MET Director Elizabeth Buxton (R) present the Dillon Award to co-recipients the Commissioners of East New Market including Marc Bramble, Chairman of the Twin Cities Commission, Commissioner David Tolley, and Mayor Caroline Cline.

The Commissioners of East New Market were recognized for the donation of a conservation easement on 9.6-acres of Friendship Park. The conservation easement, which protected the area from a proposed 20-lot subdivision, will become a public park so that visitors may forever enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, picnicking, and nature and wildlife observation.

AILEEN HUGHES AWARD

MET presents the Aileen Hughes Award annually to honor the late Aileen Hughes, a true leader in the conservation movement. Aileen was a supporter of women's and civil rights, as well as the protection of our state's natural and cultural resources. Aileen Hughes was the president of the American Chestnut Land Trust for many years.

The Aileen Hughes Award is given to recipients for their leadership roles in the land trust community. The award is given to an individual representing a Maryland land trust for leadership, partnership and

innovation in a conservation project. The award is presented as a cash sum to the

organization represented by the individual and is funded by non-state funds from MET. This year the recipient of the Aileen Hughes Award is Susan Charkes, Executive Director of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust. Susan earned the award for being an outstanding leader within her organization. Over the past five years, Charkes has worked to create and foster partnerships between land trusts, conservation groups and landowners in southern Maryland for preservation planning efforts. These successful relationships resulted in the Southern Maryland Land Conservation Initiative Conference, held in December 2012, where the groups met to connect, share their plans and goals and utilize each others' talents and know-how to develop solutions for regional land issues.



MET Trustee and Chair of the Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Committee, Constance Lieder (R) presents the 2013 Aileen Hughes Award to Susan Charkes, Executive Director of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (L).



JAN HOLLMANN GRANT PROGRAM

The Jan Hollmann Grant Program is part of the Land Trust Assistance Program provided by MET to support land trusts throughout Maryland. The grants are named for a woman who exemplified citizen leadership of local land trusts in Maryland. Jan Hollmann co-founded the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, and served on the Severn River Commission. She was named the Izaak Walton League’s Conservationist of the Year in 1989 and the Capital newspaper’s Person of the Year for 1990. Jan died in April 1990. MET’s tribute to Jan Hollman is this annual grant made in her honor for those local land trusts continuing in her footsteps.

These grants are usually targeted towards land trusts that demonstrate easement solicitation skills and that operate in regions of significant land conservation potential. The purpose of the Jan Hollmann program is to build the capabilities of the local organizations through small matching grants, with a particular focus on start-up assistance for new land trusts and fostering collaborations among neighboring organizations.

The Hollmann grant program supported five organizations. The grants helped fund a variety of eligible costs, including staff positions, landowner outreach programs, office supplies, insurance and internships. Funding for the Jan Hollmann Grants is provided by the SHA.

Recipients of the Jan Hollmann Grants

Organization	Amount
Baltimore Green Space	\$4,924.00
Conservancy for Charles County	\$5,000.00
Howard County Conservancy	\$3,790.00
Lower Shore Land Trust	\$5,000.00
Neighborspace of Baltimore County, Inc.	\$2,840.00
Total	\$21,554.00

LAND TRUST GRANT FUND

The Land Trust Grant Fund was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1990 with a primary purpose to provide interest-free loans to help local land trusts purchase conservation lands and easements.

Administration of the Fund was assigned by statute to the Maryland Environmental Trust. (§ 3-2A-02 (c)). Over the years MET has managed the fund so as to aid various land conservation projects throughout the state. These projects permanently protected 2,000 acres (as of June 30, 2011) through purchased and donated easements to MET and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF).

The loans made through the Fund have been highly leveraged. The Fund provides on average only one fifth of the project purchase price, the balance coming from local community and other private fund sources. In total, \$2.7 million dollars have been loaned from the Fund to land trusts, with an additional \$9.4 million coming from conservation partners. For the reasons explained below, no expenditures or reimbursements were made during FY11, FY12 and FY13; all outstanding loans had been repaid prior to the start of the fiscal year.

Administration of the Land Trust Grant Fund

The original monies for the Fund came to MET by General Assembly appropriations in the early 1990's through Program Open Space (POS) funding. The Fund is part of MET's annual budget (Object 14, Item 33). The basic Fund is held in the Fund's Reserve Account, and is a no-year budget item; appropriations for new projects are held for each fiscal year in the Fund's Active Account. The Fund Reserve Account is interest bearing, the Active Account is

not. Repayments are initially made to the Active Account. The Fund is flexible in that monies, such as repayments, can be transferred at the end of the fiscal year from the Active to the Reserve Account, and thus do not lapse.

Loans are given out and repaid in accordance with Land Trust Grant Fund Agreements that are completed for each project. The statute provides that loans can be made to a Maryland land trust for preservation and protection of open space and natural areas. The statute further provides that the MET may make the grants reimbursable to the Fund, and may require the dedication of a conservation easement on the property. (Md. Code. Ann., Nat. Res. §3-2A-01.)

As of FY 2009 the Fund had a balance of \$1,500,000 in the Reserve Account, and approximately \$253,000 in the Active Account. However, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2010 (SB 141/ HB 151) provided that, on or before June 30, 2010, the Governor may transfer to the General Fund \$1,500,000 of the funds in the Land Trust Grant Fund established under Section 3-2A-02 of the Natural Resources Article. That was done - \$1.5 million dollars of the Fund was diverted to the state budget, leaving a balance of less than \$25,241 to assist land trusts.

The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2010 further provided that for FY13 net interest from special funds shall accrue to the General Fund of the state, and not to the Fund itself. The Special Fund Statement attached does not show interest accrued for FY13 due to this provision.

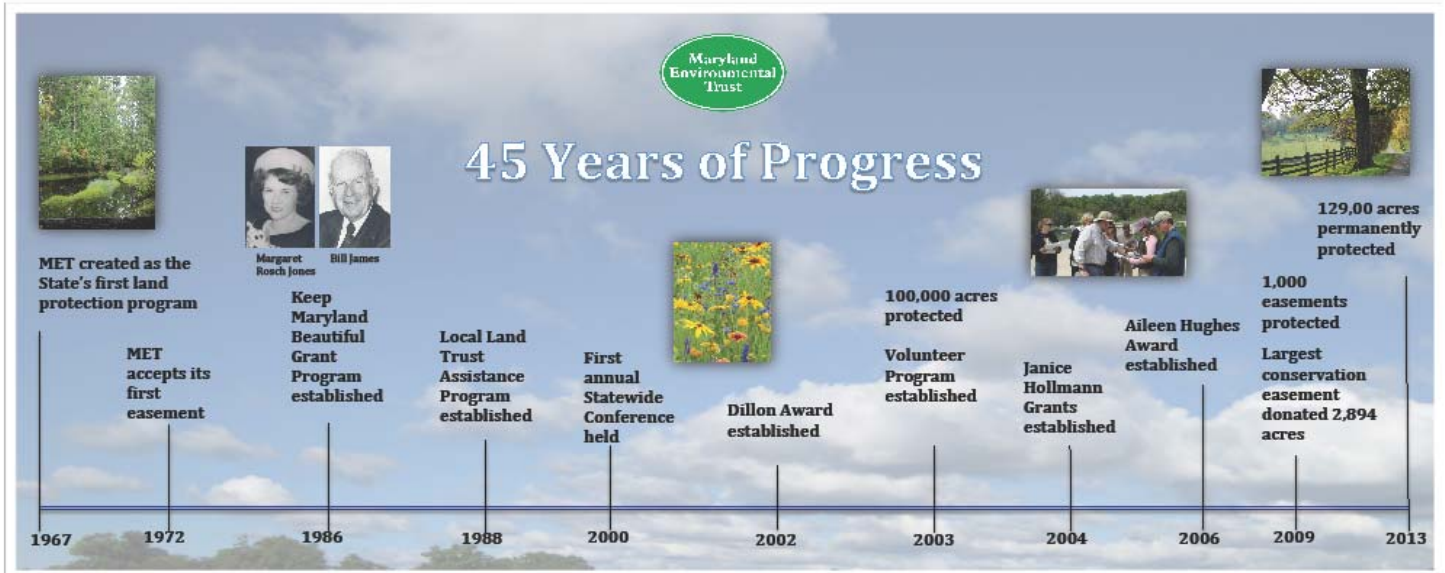
Recommendations

MET's ability to assist its partners and provide a rapid response to protect significant open space and natural resources has been drastically diminished; as of June 30, 2013, the Fund had a balance of \$25,241 available. Furthermore that balance is rapidly diminishing without any replenishment, since a portion of the remaining fund balance is allocated to MET annually by the state budgeting process, to support costs of monitoring and other related administration costs.

The MET Board feels strongly that the Fund should be replenished so that it may continue to serve as a critical source of financing to land trusts in their efforts to protect open space. The Fund has worked effectively as a rapid response land preservation tool. In the past the Fund was available for grants and loans to land trusts

at no interest for use when valuable resource lands are threatened by development. No other state program is that flexible and available at such short notice. The readjustment of land prices may spur demand for loan funds as public/private partnerships emerge to address local land use issues with voluntary conservation measures. The accrual of interest earned to the General Fund of the state further diminishes future funding for land conservation projects.

The Board of Trustees of MET recommends that the Fund be restored to its original levels and maintained and increased as soon as fiscally possible, and that the Governor and General Assembly thus support the program's goals, to assist Maryland's land trusts in their efforts to preserve open space and the state's natural areas.



KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL

The Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) program was the first program administered by MET. This program is funded by the SHA and provides grants and awards to non-profit organizations and schools to support environmental education and demonstration projects that enhance and maintain the environment.

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award of up to \$2,000.00 is awarded to one or more non-profit groups or communities for an ongoing project or activity that has demonstrated success in solving an environmental issue, whether local or statewide. This award recognizes those organizations that have been actively educating people in their community about litter prevention, community beautification, or eliminating or reducing the causes of a local environmental problem.

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

Anne Arundel County Watershed Steward Academy, Calvert Marine Museum, It's All About the Kids Education Organization, Natural History Society of Maryland, and Northern Garrett High School.

The Bill James Environmental Grant of up to \$1,000.00 is awarded to school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other nonprofit youth groups for proposed environmental education projects.

This year the Bill James Grants, in modest amounts, were awarded to:

Battle Creek Nature Education Society, Carter G. Woodson Elementary School, Gaywood Elementary School, Grasonville Elementary School, The GreenMount School, Hereford High School, Living Classrooms Foundation, Mary E. Moss Academy, Matapeake Elementary School, Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Nantucket Elementary School, Porterfieldhouse Foundation, RockView Elementary School (PTA), South River Foundation, St. Anne's School of Annapolis, and St. Martin's in-the-Field Episcopal School.



KMB recipient Calvert Marine Museum constructs "floating islands" to improve water quality.



Recipients for the 2013 Keep Maryland Beautiful Awards

Margaret Rosch Jones Award	
Anne Arundel County Watershed Steward Academy	\$750.00
Calvert Marine Museum	\$1,000.00
It's All About the Kids Education Organization	\$750.00
Natural History Society of Maryland	\$1,000.00
Northern Garrett High School	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$4,500.00
Bill James Award	
Battle Creek Nature Education Society	\$250.00
Carter G. Woodson Elementary School	\$250.00
Gaywood Elementary School	\$500.00
Grasonville Elementary School	\$1,000.00
The GreenMount School, Inc.	\$500.00
Hereford High School	\$250.00
Living Classrooms Foundation	\$500.00
Mary E. Moss Academy	\$500.00
Matapeake Elementary School	\$500.00
Mountain Laurel Garden Club	\$500.00
Nantucket Elementary School	\$250.00
Porterfieldhouse Foundation	\$1,000.00
RockView Elementary School (PTA)	\$250.00
South River Foundation	\$1,000.00
St. Anne's School of Annapolis	\$500.00
St. Martin's in-the-Field Episcopal School	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$8,000.00

Appendix 1

MET Financial Statement - July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
State Administered Funds

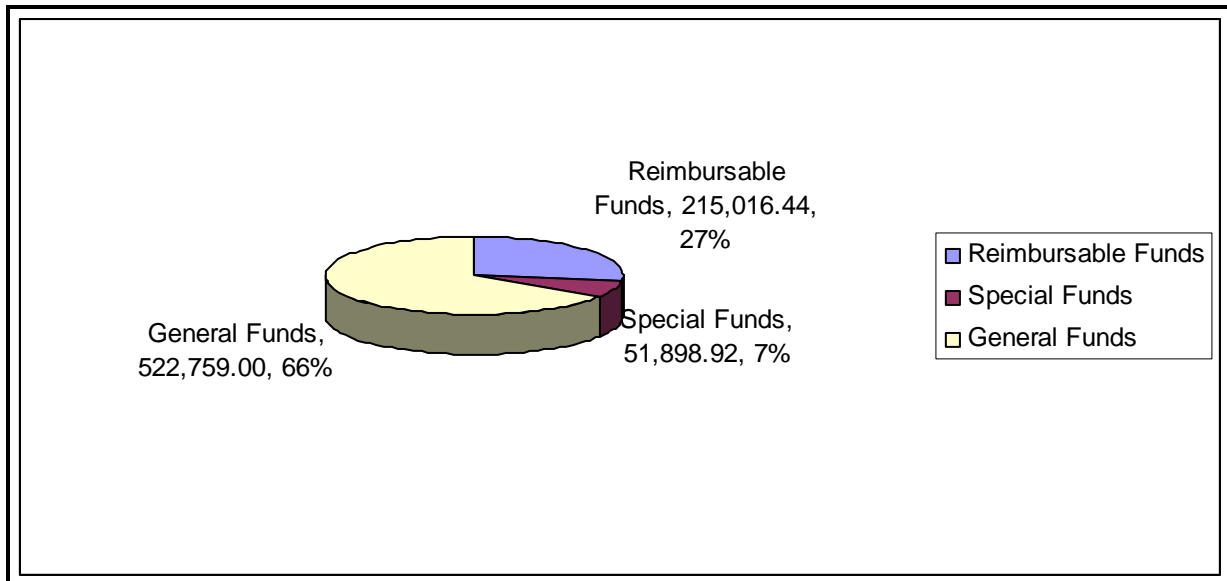
FISCAL YEAR 2013

Number of Authorized Positions	9.0
Number of Contractual Positions	1.8
Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	705,597.78
Total Operating Expenses (including contractual services, communications, travel, equipment, supplies and materials)	84,076.58
Total Expenditure	789,674.36

FUND SOURCES

Net General Funds	522,759.00
Special Funds	51,898.92
Reimbursable Funds	215,016.44

TOTAL **\$789,674.36**



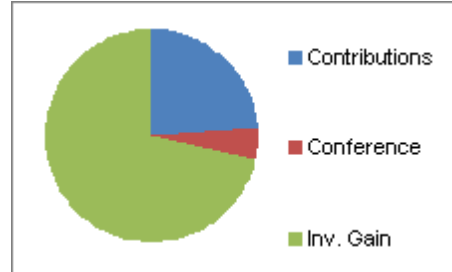
Appendix 2

MET Statement of Activities - July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
MET Administered Funds

REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Contributions & Grants	\$ 48,325
MLTA Conference	10,581
Investments Gain, net	146,072

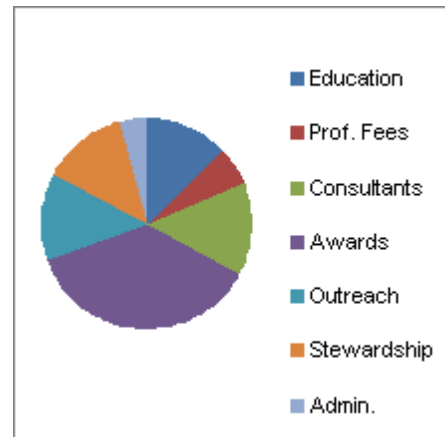
TOTAL REVENUES **\$204,978**



EXPENSES

LLT Education & Training	\$ 27,577
Professional Fees	12,425
Consultants	30,795
Awards & Grants	77,812
Outreach	28,412
Stewardship & Monitoring	27,916
Administrative Expenses	8,984

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$213,921**



CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$ (8,943)**

Appendix 3

CONTRIBUTORS

The Abell Foundation
American Lubrication Equipment Corporation
Anonymous
Victor R. Aybar
Bay Land Trust, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Beard
John R. Beaver
Doris Blazek White and Thacher W. White
John and Marjorie Blodgett
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dorsey Brown, III
Bruce S. Campbell, III
Ruly R.M. Carpenter
Dr. Gary P. Carver and Darlene T. Carver
Chesapeake Conservancy, Inc.
Conservation Fund
Diana E. Conway
Gerret Van S. Copeland
Wilson L. Coudon
Nessly and Susan Craig
Ms. Louisa C. Duemling
Roy Dyson
James H. Eacker
Mrs. Alice W. Eastman
Charles C. Emery
ExxonMobil Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Galli
Jack and Ruann George
David Greene
Ronald A. Hamlen
Royce and Mary Hanson
Charlotte D. Hawes
Lorraine B. Healey
Hoffman Terryberry Gift Fund
Hollyday Family, LLC / Richard Gold
Tim and Julie Hussman
Nancy Isaacson
Thomas B. Jeffers
Barbara Knapp
Land Trust Alliance
Constance Lieder
William R. McCain
Lizabeth McDowell
Alice M. Morris
Mr. and Mrs. James R. O'Connell
O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP
Walter Dodd Ramberg
William F. Rienhoff
Dale N. Schumacher and Barbara Parker
Margot K. Shriver
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred P. Smithwick, Jr.
Jennifer Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold G. Stifel
Adena W. Testa
Ms. Catherine R. Tipper
Kathryn Weise
John S. Weske
Kathleen B. White
Simeon Wooten, III
Bonny and Alan Wright
Julia Jackson Young