



Protecting Land Forever

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

100 Community Place, 1st Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

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Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is a statewide land trust governed by a citizen board of trustees and affiliated with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Established in 1967 by the Maryland General Assembly as a charitable organization, MET is the oldest and most successful land trust in Maryland.

Land Conservation

- Negotiated six easements and two amendments that permanently protect 815 acres
- Hired new Easement Program Manager John Turgeon
- Transferred 18 acre Bunting property to Baltimore Co., protected with a conservation easement
- Hired UMD intern Nick Finio
- Hired office manager Shilpa Shah

Community Outreach

- Wrote and distributed two issues of LandMarks newsletters to over 2,000 constituents
- Distributed FY2012 and FY2013 Annual Reports to the Governor, President of Senate, Speaker of the House and DNR Secretary
- Exhibited at the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention
- Presented at a Family Forest Legacy Planning Workshop hosted by Forests for the Bay
- Attended and exhibited at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum
- Held outreach events to various audiences including forest landowners, realtors, Dorchester Co. residents, Washington Co. residents (partnering with C&O Canal Trust), and Maryland Woodland Stewards



View of Paw Paw Creek from 2014 Grande View Properties LLC easement in Worcester Co.

- Presented information about MET's easement program at the State Scenic Byways Program annual meeting and at the Maryland Planning Directors' Roundtable quarterly meeting
- Presented, in May, on Stewardship and Monitoring at Farmland Preservation Conference sponsored by Rutgers University in Hershey, PA
- Sent letters to MET landowners whose properties have Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat regarding their assistance with the US Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan
- Worked with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to complete revisions of the MET model easement
- Promoted MET in several publications including the *Delmarva Farmer* and *My Maryland* (MD Farm Bureau)
- MET staff and Board Chairman attended Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) Rally in Providence, RI

Special Events

- Held second reception with Governor O'Malley on June 17 in Annapolis to celebrate private land conservation, over 100 guests attended
- Chairman James Constable hosted a picnic in June for MET BOT and staff
- Held Inaugural Fête at Sagamore Farm on November 1, 97 guests registered. Sponsorship and ticket sales generated almost \$30,000

Awards

- Presented annual Dillon Award and Aileen Hughes Award
- Awarded \$27,000 in Janice Hollmann Grants to six local land trusts to strengthen their conservation, outreach and stewardship programs
- Distributed \$8,000 in *Keep Maryland Beautiful* Grants

Land Trust Assistance

- Held annual MD Land Conservation Conference at the Claggett Center in Adamstown on April 3-4. More than 200 participants, representing 115 organizations attended from across the Chesapeake Bay region. DNR Secretary Joe Gill, provided the keynote address
- Held three Land Trust Roundtables: Adamstown, Huntingtown and Baltimore
- Distributed monthly Land Trust e-newsletters
- Executed four Cooperative Agreements: City of Annapolis; Gunpowder Valley Conservancy; Howard County Conservancy and Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust
- Met with seven local land trusts to discuss organizational needs, priority projects, challenges and stewardship strategies
- Attended the Northeast Land Trust Association Meeting in Windsor, CT
- Attended LTA's Facing Your Biggest Challenge: A Workshop (Designed for Small and All-Volunteer Land Trusts) in Middleburg, VA
- Attended an LTA webinar and discussion on LTA's new Community Conservation initiative
- Developed and distributed the Land Trust Needs Assessment Survey
- The Land Trust Advisory Committee began the process to develop and adopt a purpose statement

Social Media

- Reached 189 likes on Facebook
- Updated Wikipedia page to include links to Sagamore Farm, Daniel Sheffer Farm and Maidstone
- Blasted over 35 emails to landowners and friends of MET
- 8,571 viewed MET's homepage, followed by:
Land Conservation 2,485
Property Listings 2,163
Grant Programs 2,020
Returning Visitors: 5,793
New Visitors: 7,560

Fundraising

- Created *Donate Now* button on MET's website which went live in Jan.
- Participated in first *Giving Tuesday* campaign on Dec. 2nd
- Distributed Annual Appeal letter to over 2,000
- Created donor categories to acknowledge financial supporters
- Received nearly \$70,000 in donations

Stewardship

- Responded to 266 requests for information on easement applicability, interpretations, notifications and reports of concerns. Conducted 10 site visits in response
- MET staff and volunteers monitored 290 easement properties on 33,928 acres of conserved land submitted by nine local land trusts
- Conducted 43 visits jointly with eight land trust and government partners
- Reviewed 137 monitoring reports from land trust partners
- Met with OAG staff quarterly to discuss stewardship issues requiring continued OAG assistance, resulted in resolution of seven matters
- Developed criteria for a Stewardship Award to be presented to landowners for exemplary on-the-ground activities promoting best management practices and enhancement of conservation values
- Conducted onsite training for three land trusts on monitoring

- Prosecuted a major easement violation in Cecil Co. impacting a 13 acre forest stand

Volunteers

- Presented five Land Steward Volunteer training sessions at which 16 new volunteers were trained
- Prepared field files for and distributed 232 assignments to 45 Land Steward Volunteers who completed 192 visits to easement properties on 20,454 acres
- Reviewed 192 reports and over 2,500 photographs for completeness and clarity, and copied into MET paper and digital files
- Recruited, trained and supervised eight office volunteers who contributed a total of 550 hours assisting in GIS, recordkeeping, and report processing projects
- Held a Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in May. Sixteen participants enjoyed a catered lunch, hike and paddle trip on Muddy Creek
- Organized two (June and Oct.) Adopt A Highway clean-ups on Rt. 2/Solomons Island Rd. in southern Anne Arundel County



Volunteer photo taken during monitoring visit of a MET easement in Queen Anne's County.