

Land Marks

2014: Another Year of Success in Conservation

Last year, MET added 815 acres to its portfolio of protected lands. Working with landowners and land trust partners, MET staff negotiated and recorded six conservation easements in five counties. Most of these easements were donated to MET and are co-held with a local or regional land trust.

One easement in Kent County was purchased using federal Transportation Enhancement funds. MET partnered with federal, state and local partners to purchase a conservation easement on 404 acres along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway. The Fry family owns this active dairy farm. The open space and working agricultural land are integral components of the area's rural setting and will be preserved in perpetuity by MET and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), the local land trust partner.

"The Fry farms located north of Chestertown have been in our family for over 50 years," said Ed Fry. "Our goals and the goals of MET and the ESLC were in concert. These lands will remain in agriculture and open space for our children's grandchildren and for decades beyond."

The acquisition of this easement was made possible with the use of federal transportation funds set aside for the protection of scenic views along the Byway. MET, together with ESLC, Kent County, and the Maryland State Highway Administration have been working cooperatively



View of the Fry family dairy farm in Kent County.

to permanently safeguard the scenic, rural and agricultural character of this landscape along the Byway. This is one of six easements purchased along this Scenic Byway with these earmarked funds.

In Frederick County, MET accepted a conservation easement donation from Shannon and Susanne Bohrer of Emmitsburg. The Bohrer's property is situated among a block of fourteen other protected properties, totaling over 1,400 acres of agricultural lands. The easement protects the view of the rolling agricultural fields and the Catoctin Mountains in the distance along Sixes Road and the forested slopes of Tom's Creek.

In Cecil County, MET worked on two new conservation easement properties with two land trust partners. MET and the Cecil Land Trust protected 44 acres of agricultural and forest lands near the town of Colora. The property is located on prime farmland in the scenic agricultural region of northern Cecil County. The rolling landscape of this property contains several streams, and a portion of the property is a state Targeted Ecological Area. The open space, woodlands,

Continued on page 6



Farmland in Cecil County.



Director's Note

by Elizabeth Buxton, MET Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James W. Constable, *Chairman*
The Honorable S. Jay Plager,
Vice Chairman
Doris Blazek-White, *Treasurer*
Steven P. Quarles, *Secretary*
Goodloe E. (Geb) Byron Jr.
David Greene
Philip R. Hager
Julia Jitkoff
Constance Lieder
James B. Morris
James R. O'Connell

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

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 - *Kent County*
Nancy Isaacson - *Frederick County*
Toby Lloyd - *Montgomery County*

TRUSTEES EMERITI

K. King Burnett
Ajax Eastman
Ellen Kelly
John C. Murphy
Henry A. Virts

STAFF

Elizabeth Buxton, *Director*

Megan Benjamin,
Central/Western Region Planner

Ann Gutierrez Carlson,
Eastern Region Planner

Jon Chapman,
Stewardship Program Manager

Michelle Funches, *Easement Steward*

Michelle Grafton,
Land Trust Assistance Coordinator

Carol Holland, *Bookkeeper*

Joan R. Lally,
Stewardship Program Coordinator

Nika Ouellette, *Easement Steward*

Jamie Salabogi, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Wendy Stringfellow, *Communications/
Development Coordinator*

John Turgeon, *Easement Program
Manager/Southern Region Planner*

This is my last Director's Note. In December I announced to the MET Board of Trustees my decision to step down in March to accept a new position with the Valleys Planning Council (VPC), a land conservation organization in Baltimore County. This decision was not made lightly as I remain dedicated to and motivated by the success of MET's current projects and goals. I am excited about the new opportunities at the VPC and look forward to working with MET as a partner. John Turgeon, Conservation Easement Program Manager, will assume the role of Acting Director during this transition.

As I reflect back on my tenure as Director, I feel a sense of pride to have been associated with this great organization and to have been a part of its growth. I know that I'm leaving MET in a stronger position than when I joined the staff in 2008, and I know that it will only continue to evolve in the coming years. I'm very proud of the work MET does, and it's truly been an honor to have served as Director.

During the last 6+ years we have accomplished so much together, including over 100 conservation easements on more than 12,800 acres, the adoption of MET's Long Range Plan and Accreditation Work Plan, a "celebration of 1000 easements" at Holly Hill, two successful receptions with Governor O'Malley, well-attended annual conferences and quarterly roundtable meetings for land trusts, the 10th anniversary of MET's volunteer program at Boordy, the inaugural Fete at Sagamore Farm, and increased awareness about the important work of MET! Hopefully, the proposed legislation (HB 2/SB 615) to expand the state tax credit for donated easements will pass during this session! It has been two years of hard work and we need to continue to push for this important legislation.

With many of you I have shared a unique camaraderie which I hope will continue in the years to come. Even though I am moving on, I will continue to promote MET and land conservation. I am excited about my new position that will bring forth new challenges and opportunities — and it is much closer to home!

I am truly in awe of the dedication of the MET board and staff to complete conservation projects, the dedication of our volunteers to stewardship, and the enduring support of supporters who make it possible. As you'll read in the following pages, MET's accomplishments this year required a great deal of time and hard work. Last year MET also made a commitment to prepare for accreditation, a huge endeavor designed to make land trusts stronger. This independent review of MET is a comprehensive process that is enabling us to fine-tune our conservation easement and stewardship procedures, along with our financial and ethical practices. The goal: to assure you and the public that your statewide land trust is operating to the highest professional standards as we work to protect scenic open space, forest and farmland in Maryland.

With your help, MET will continue to persevere. I am proud to be part of the collaboration between MET and the Maryland land trust community, DNR, and the national Land Trust Alliance. Together, we have been working to leverage resources and expertise to educate landowners on stewardship and land protection, the benefits of conservation easements as a financial planning tool as well as a natural resource protection tool, and seeking ways to complete the important work of protecting the scenic open space in Maryland for wildlife, farming, and public enjoyment.

As MET embarks on a new era and its next 50 years, it must evolve with the changing times. The fiscal reality in Annapolis is that the level of public funding needed to succeed in landscape-scale conservation is less attainable, and agencies are focused on partnering with land trusts and other nonprofits to achieve land conservation goals. We now acknowledge that

Continued on page 13





Flags saluting at sunset. Photos by Matt Ryb Pictures.

MET Hosts Inaugural Fête at Sagamore Farm

On November 1, more than 75 guests enjoyed a beautiful fall evening at Sagamore Farm. Located in the scenic Worthington Valley of Baltimore County, this picturesque farm was the perfect venue for this first ever fundraising event for MET. The event helped to raise funds for the ongoing stewardship of MET easement properties and to increase awareness about the importance of private land conservation as a mechanism to protect scenic open space and agricultural lands in Maryland.

Guests had a chance to explore Sagamore Farmhouse, view the collection of horseracing memorabilia, and dine on locally sourced food prepared by Copper Kitchen. Welcoming remarks were presented by MET’s Chairman, James W. Constable. Special *Continued on page 4*

MET would like to thank the following sponsors for their generosity:

Environmental Benefactor

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis J. Parker, Mt. Pleasant Farm

Green Space Guardians

Frank & Helen Bonsal

Brown Advisory

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

James and Katie Constable

Hunting Ridge Farm

L’Aiglon Foundation

Constance Lieder

Stanislaw Maliszewski and Julia Jitkoff

O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue LLP

Valleys Planning Council

And a special thank you to the Sagamore Racing Team, Mrs. Ellen Kelly, Boordy Vineyards and Wells Discount Liquors for their contributions to the event.



Edie and Jim Garrett, and Nancy Isaacson.

Sagamore Farm

(continued from page 3)

thanks to Randy Lewis, Guest Services & Events Facilitator of the Sagamore Racing Team for his assistance with planning this special event and for sharing stories of Sagamore's horseracing history. The farm was formerly owned by Alfred Vanderbilt and was internationally recognized for producing champion thoroughbreds such as Discovery, Bed O'Roses and Native Dancer. Mr. Lewis' remarks concluded with the farm's current owner, Kevin Plank, founder and CEO of Under Armour, and his vision of returning Sagamore to its former glory and beyond. Mr. Plank's long-term plan for total restoration of the farm includes preserving the Valley's natural resources as well as breeding, training and racing thoroughbreds.

MET, together with the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and local land trusts, have protected over 5,000 acres in the surrounding Worthington Valley. Most of the 530 acre Sagamore Farm is protected in perpetuity by easements held by MET and MALPF.



Maureen O'Connell and Chairman James Constable. Photos by Matt Ryb Pictures.



Brooks Patternotte and Mabel and Oliver Johnson



Patricia Stephens, Dick Mansberger, Cathy Tipper and Christina Poe



MET staff: Megan Benjamin, Wendy Stringfellow, Elizabeth Buxton, John Turgeon, Ann Carlson, Kristen Maneval (Office of the Attorney General) and Carol Holland

Landowner Spotlight

Tal Petty, Tranquility Farm

The Petty family's "Tranquility Farm," located along the scenic shores of the Patuxent River in St. Mary's County, is one of the more unique properties to have been conserved by MET. Totaling 300 acres, the riverfront property is sandwiched between the 600 acre Greenwell State Park, and the historic Sotterley Plantation, a restored 18th century Tidewater plantation house that is now a museum on 100 acres. MET also holds an easement on a portion of Sotterley together with the Maryland Historical Trust.

Tranquility Farm is a working farm that is home to Angus cattle, sheep, and more recently oysters grown in the waters adjacent to the property. Woodlands cover around two-thirds of the property. MET and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust jointly hold the easement on the entire property, which was purchased in 2002 using Program Open Space funds allocated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



View of the Patuxent River from the Petty family's 'Tranquility Farm' in St. Mary's County.



Tal Petty, owner of Hollywood Oyster Company, standing in front of oyster sorting equipment floating in Hog Neck Creek adjacent to Tranquility Farm.

After moving to Washington, DC in the 1960's, John and Lee Petty acquired the property in 1972 through a descendant of one of the most famous Americans of the early 20th century, J.P. Morgan, whose son-in-law, Herbert Satterlee, acquired the Sotterley Plantation in the early 1900s. Ownership of the property then passed to Mr. Satterlee's daughter, Mabel Ingalls. Mabel was a good friend of the Petty's, and she sold to them the 300 acre portion of Sotterley Plantation that became Tranquility Farm.

John and Lee's son Tal spent many weekends of his childhood helping his parents run their farm, which was a country retreat from the hustle and bustle of their Washington, DC lives. This experience stuck with Tal, and he now resides full-time at Tranquility Farm. Most of his time is dedicated to operating the Hollywood Oyster Company, his venture in oyster aquaculture. After state legislation passed in 2009 that allowed for the leasing of state waters for aquaculture, Tal formed his company in 2010 and began leasing five acres of the Patuxent and one of its tributaries, Hog Neck Creek, adjacent to the property to commercially farm oysters.

Oyster farming is a highly-regulated enterprise, where water quality is tested regularly by Maryland's Department of the Environment and Department of Health. However, the business has become quite successful for Tal and his family. Hollywood Oyster Company has ten employees and the operation annually sells over a million premium half-shell oysters to wholesale distributors, which then sell the oysters to restaurants around the region. These oysters also act as a filter for the waters around where they grow: about 50 gallons of water per day, per oyster, according to Tal. The cumulative benefit of these oysters, which are grown in vertically suspended cages, called water columns, has had a noticeable cleansing impact on the waters adjacent to the property. Tal has seen improved biodiversity, including expansion of underwater grasses, which has created a more attractive environment for crabs and eels.

Tal's ingenuity and dedication to his farm, combined with the conservation offered by the easement, have provided an excellent resource for all of Maryland. Crucial woodlands and wetlands near threatened tidewater habitats have been protected, and these same lands and waters are used for sustainable, profitable enterprises that provide jobs and an economic benefit to the state.



Eastern oysters on a sorting conveyor at the Hollywood Oyster Company.

Conservation Success

(continued from page 1)

and farmland are a key part of the rural agricultural setting in Cecil County. Additionally, the property lies adjacent to a 260 acre tract preserved by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF).

MET and the ESLC protected 94 acres of woodlands along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway in Cecil County *post mortem*. The landowner generously included the protection of the property by a conservation easement in her will. The estate therefore donated the conservation easement on this wooded property. A portion of Herring Creek and several acres of wet meadows also are protected on the property which is immediately adjacent to a 4,138 acre block of farmland protected by conservation easements held by the MALPF. The conservation easement expands the area's rich landscape of preserved agricultural and forest lands.

In Charles County, MET partnered with the Conservancy for Charles County and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association

of the Union (MVLAU) to protect 65 acres. The property was acquired in 2012 by MVLAU primarily to protect the scenic view from George Washington's historic estate. The property contains ridgeline forest cover. If these forests were cut or developed, it would be visible to Mount Vernon visitors. Provisions in the easement ensure that does not occur. In addition, the easement protects natural habitat for forest interior dwelling bird species, second or third growth forest, and low lying wetlands. A portion of Pomonkey Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, flows along the northern portion of the property.

In Worcester County, MET and the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) protected 168 acres of farmland, forest, and wetland along Paw Paw Creek, a tributary of Chincoteague Bay. The Nichols family donated the conservation easement and expressed their gratitude to the staff of MET and LSLT for their hard work and dedication to this process. "It was clear to us that this property is better served remaining in agriculture as opposed to being



View of Paw Paw Creek in Worcester County from the Nichols' conservation easement donation.



Crop fields in Worcester County on Nichols' conservation easement donation.

developed,” said Charles Nichols. “Our strong commitment to conservation only made the decision of protecting this property, an obvious win for everyone. This is the second property we have put under easement with MET.”

The easement property was formerly platted for a 62 lot subdivision, but currently sits undeveloped. In addition to containing 80 acres of prime farmland, the property also consists of 22 acres of wetlands, six of which are of Special State Concern. The open space, wetlands, and farmland of the property are an integral part of the area’s coastal, agricultural setting. The conservation easement will preserve the land’s scenic characteristics. Additionally, two state-listed threatened plant species, the Dwarf Trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum*) and Single-headed Pussytoes (*Antennaria solitaria*), will be protected on this easement. This property is adjacent to 616 acres of protected lands held by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other conservation easements.

Together, these six easements protect 1.1 miles of frontage along scenic roadways; 310 acres of forest; 322 acres of prime farmland soils; and 173 acres within Targeted Ecological Areas, which are lands identified as a conservation priority by the DNR.



Landowner Signs

MET provides landowners with a sign to be displayed on their conserved property. If you are a landowner with an easement held by the Maryland Environmental Trust and wish to have a sign, please contact Jamie Salabogi or call 410-514-7900 to request one be mailed or delivered at your next monitoring visit. The signs come in two sizes.

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST By the Numbers

132,506
acres permanently protected

2,894 acres
single largest conservation easement donation

1,065 conservation easements
in 23 counties and Baltimore City

123 acres
is the average size of an easement

80 miles
protected along Maryland Scenic Byways

47 years of experience

39 trained field and office volunteers

15 Board of Trustees

10 full time staff members

7 Area Representatives

National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Hosts Land Trust Roundtable Meeting

National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance hosted a MET Land Trust Roundtable on December 9, 2014 for local land trusts currently working within their urban/suburban communities. The Roundtable was held at Mill No. 1 in Baltimore's historic mill district along the Jones Falls. Mill No. 1 is a mixed-use adaptive re-use project of apartments, offices and restaurants.

The Roundtable brought together 26 representatives from 15 organizations to learn from one another, examine common challenges and to discuss new innovative partnerships. Participants also had the opportunity to present an overview of their current conservation projects, area of work and how they are connecting with their local communities.



Participants listen to presenters at MET's Land Trust Roundtable on December 9, 2014.



Kate Patton, Executive Director of Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT), discusses LSLT's plan to establish a community trail network.

Rob Aldrich, Director of Community Conservation for the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) attended and provided a brief overview of LTA's community efforts. Aldrich also discussed the importance of messaging and the use of "grocery store line language" when sharing your land trust's mission and accomplishments.

The roundtable meetings are free and meet quarterly and provide land trust staff, volunteers and board members an opportunity to come together and exchange ideas about the challenges relating to land conservation. For more information about the next Land Trust Roundtable meeting, please contact Land Trust Assistance Coordinator Michelle Grafton at michelle.grafton@maryland.gov.



New Face at MET

Nika Ouellette, MET summer intern in 2013, returns to MET to work as an Easement Steward after earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont in May 2014. Her passion for conservation and maintaining the ecological integrity of pristine lands led her back to the Mid-Atlantic region. Nika is an enthusiastic outdoorswoman and spends as much time as possible soaking in fresh air and sunshine, avidly training for the javelin throw (in which she was a three-time Division-1 All-American) and generally avoiding sitting still.

Stewardship Corner: You Asked, We Answered

Why does MET conduct regular monitoring visits?

MET is responsible for upholding the terms of its conservation easements forever. To that end, MET staff and trained volunteers regularly visit each conservation easement property to ensure that it is compliant with the easement terms.

What will a monitoring visit be like and with whom will I meet?

Monitoring visits are visual inspections of the property for the purpose of comparing its present conditions against the conditions that existed at the time that the easement was granted. MET gives landowners advance written notice of its visits and invites them to be present. Landowners need not be present, but those who

do attend often take the opportunity to discuss with MET any changes that they are contemplating making to the property. A MET staff member and/or a MET-trained volunteer and/or (if the easement is co-held with another land trust) a representative of the co-holder conducts the visit. The monitor

completes a report and takes photographs of conservation features protected by the easement (scenic views, agricultural fields, stream buffers, etc.) as well as dwelling units, farm buildings and other improvements on the property. MET staff later compares the report and photographs to previous reports and photographs, including those of the original condition of the property.

What happens if an issue is found during a monitoring visit?

If the monitor identifies an issue as a result of the visit, MET stewardship staff will follow up with the landowner, possibly making another visit to the property to verify and document conditions. MET addresses violations on a case-by-case basis. If MET determines that a violation exists, it is generally willing to work with landowners to allow them time to find and implement reasonable solutions that will bring the property into compliance. If a violation is the result of trespass activity (like third party dumping), landowners are responsible for taking steps to prevent additional trespass (signage, gates, etc.) and must address the clean-up. If necessary, MET will use legal action to resolve a violation.

What if I need help or have questions between monitoring visits?

MET staff members are available by phone or email to answer questions from landowners, their agents

and the public regarding any aspect of conservation easement restrictions and permissible activities. MET's website contains general information but please feel free to contact Jon Chapman, MET Stewardship Program Manager, with specific questions or concerns.

What if I seek to exercise a right reserved in the easement?

First, review the conservation easement. If your easement permits additional construction or subdivision, MET (and any co-holder) generally have the right to review and approve the plans before construction begins and prior to your submitting plans to local government planning agencies.

MET conservation easements usually cite a specific time period by which we must complete our review. When seeking approval from MET for proposed changes, it is important to submit a completed and signed application with all necessary attachments (letters, plans, photos/images, designs, etc.) at least three weeks in advance of the next



MET Stewardship staff Nika Ouellette, Jamie Salabogi, Jon Chapman, Michelle Funches, and Joan Lally.

MET Board of Trustees meeting. The MET Board of Trustees meets nine times per year. **Please check our website for an application form and for the schedule of MET Board meetings: www.dnr.state.md.us/met/.** If an easement is co-held with a local land trust, approval will be required from both co-holders.

What should I do prior to building an agricultural structure?

Review the conservation easement. Generally, MET does not have to approve agricultural structures but this is not always the case if there are architectural, archaeological or scenic protections.

What should I do prior to building a replacement dwelling unit?

MET retains approval of the location of a replacement dwelling unit if in a different location than the dwelling unit being replaced. If you seek to replace an existing dwelling unit in a different location, please contact MET so it can evaluate whether the proposed siting of the dwelling unit in a new location will adversely affect the conservation values protected by the easement.

When in doubt, please contact MET (and the local land trust partner, if applicable) to ask questions prior to any construction activities on conserved land.

Meet Our Volunteers

For more than ten years, MET has relied on a team of trained volunteers (up to 40 at a time) to conduct routine visits to MET easement properties throughout the state of Maryland. In 2014, our volunteers visited nearly 200 properties, met with landowners, documented changes and completed field reports for each easement. MET is grateful to all of our volunteers and appreciate their enthusiasm, passion, and contributions to land conservation. Here are a few members of our dedicated volunteer team:

David and Nancy Kieffer

David and Nancy Kieffer have been married for 42 years, have two children, and reside in Germantown, Montgomery County. David is a retired College Professor and met Nancy when she was a student in his zoology lab. Nancy has degrees in Zoology and computer programming. She has been a computer Programmer/Systems Analyst in Montgomery County for the past 23 years. The Kieffers joined the MET team in 2007 and primarily monitor properties in Montgomery, Frederick and Baltimore Counties. David and Nancy both enjoy monitoring because they can see interesting ecological areas and meet interesting people. Monitoring gives them the opportunity to visit many diverse and unique areas of Maryland with ecological and historical significance. Nancy likes talking with the landowners and learning about the history of their homes. "I have always enjoyed the outdoors and take a keen interest in learning about and solving global and local environmental issues such as land use, air and water quality, species diversity, and conservation," David said.



Dave Godfrey

Dave Godfrey resides in Queen Anne's County and is an avid hiker, skier, mountain biker, fisherman, kayaker, and father to three. He is not only a dedicated volunteer with MET but he also devotes time to Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Wye Island NRMA, and Tuckahoe State Park. In the spring he monitors over 30 Wood Duck boxes and is an active member of Maryland Wood Duck Initiative. Other environmental projects he has worked on include: artificial reef construction, shoreline restoration, and local environmental centers construction. Dave believes fully in the mission of MET. He has coined the saying "We Are at the Dawning of Green" because he believes conserving the land and providing habitat for future wildlife is of utmost importance as human population continues to grow.



Steve and Sondra Dorsey

Steve and Sondra Dorsey reside in Hagerstown. They will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year. Steve is retired from the construction inspection division of SHA and Sondra is a registered nurse and professor at Hagerstown Community College. Their love of the outdoors together with Steve's job at SHA led them to volunteer with MET. Volunteering is something they really enjoy doing together. The Dorseys joined the MET team in 2014 and monitor easement properties in Washington County.

Shannon Allen

Shan Allen was born and raised in Virginia and resides in Fairfax County, Virginia. As an office volunteer, he has devoted more than 135 hours on GIS projects for MET in the past year and also monitors protected lands primarily in Baltimore County. He has more than 10 years professional experience working with GIS and is a die-hard Redskins fan. Shan enjoys monitoring because of the opportunities to observe nature while getting to know the state of Maryland.



*With deep gratitude and sincerity,
MET would like to thank all of our volunteers
for their valuable contributions and continued
commitment to land conservation!*

Owen “Pat” Curran

Pat Curran recently retired after working over 34 years as a Dept. of Defense logistician and has received numerous certificates of appreciation and recommendations over the years. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona and is a member in good standing with the Aircraft Owners and Private Pilots Association (AOPPA). Pat resides in Annapolis with his high school sweetheart. After spending a lifetime of fishing, Pat developed a keen sense for protecting the environment and it is for this reason he is “both delighted and honored to be a part of the MET volunteer program.”



David Hobson

Dave Hobson is one of our longest serving volunteers. He has been assisting MET for the past nine years and monitors properties primarily in Harford and Baltimore Counties. Dave resides with his wife and two sons, ages 8 and 10, in Fallston in Harford County. He teaches elementary physical education and is an experienced backpacker. Dave loves the outdoors and enjoys visiting the beautiful MET protected properties around Maryland.



IN KIND DONATIONS

Ronnie Adams
Shan Allen
Derek Baumgardner
Andrea Blohm
Jason Boothe
Andrew Brignole
Ken Brown
Ann Burchard
Christine Cadigan
Susan Cohen
Owen “Pat” Curran
Carrie Dike
Jeffrey Dillon
Sharon Dillon
Eric Dirksen
Sondra Dorsey
Steve Dorsey
Christina Dzingala
Stephen Fogle
Heather Foley
Dave Godfrey
Christine Hammer
Joe Hasuly
David Hobson
Carol Holland
Peter Holland
David Kieffer
Nancy Kieffer
Emily Kimak
Toby Lloyd
Brittany McBride
Christine McCreary
Andrew Mowbray
Patrick Pence
Ben Peterson
Elizabeth Schumann
Werner Schumann
Kevin Smith
Stuart Stainman
Don Sweet
Marsha Sweet
Melissa Tully
Charlie Wells
Joseph Yates

**If you are interested in volunteering at MET contact
Jamie Salabogi at Jamie.Salabogi@maryland.gov
or at 410-514-7908.**

MET Transfers Gift to Baltimore County

In December, MET transferred an 18 acre property to Baltimore County to be used by the public for low impact recreational use as part of the Robert E. Lee Park. In turn, the county has agreed to a conservation easement that will forever protect the property from development.

The property was a gift to MET made possible by local philanthropist Mary Catherine Bunting who recognizes the importance of keeping the land adjacent to the Jones Falls in a natural state. MET acquired this property with the understanding that when it was transferred to another owner, a conservation easement limiting its use and development would be granted back to MET.

The property, which is to the north of the county-managed 415 acre Robert E. Lee Park, follows along a former railroad bed and borders the Jones Falls as it flows along Falls Road. The easement protects woodland habitat, water quality, the scenic view from the road, and allows for passive public recreation such as hiking and birding.

“We are pleased to transfer ownership of the property to the county to enhance the Robert E. Lee Park and will provide more opportunities for the public to enjoy nature,” said MET Director Liz Buxton. “With the conservation easement in place, MET will ensure that Ms. Bunting’s gift will remain protected in perpetuity.”



Passive recreational trail on property now part of Robert E. Lee Park in Baltimore County.



2015 MARYLAND LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

April 30–May 1, 2015 | The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute | Linthicum Heights, MD

The annual event is the largest gathering of its kind in the state for land trusts, conservancies, local and state government agencies, heritage organizations, members of the agricultural community and other partners.

Keynote speaker Stephanie Meeks is the president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which she has led since July 2010. Prior to joining the National Trust, Stephanie held senior executive

positions, including chief operating officer, acting president and chief executive officer, during her 17-year career with The Nature Conservancy, one of the world’s largest and most influential conservation organizations.

For more information about the 2015 Maryland Land Conservation Conference, please contact Michelle Grafton at michelle.grafton@maryland.gov. Visit www.conservemd.org for registration and details.



Legacy Planning for Family Forest Lands

Forests for the Bay was developed through collaboration between the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the US Forest Service and the Chesapeake Bay Program, with support from the Maryland Forest Service, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Forestry. The purpose of this program is to promote sound forest management practices as a way to increase the vitality of the region's woodlands and improve the health of local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Forests for the Bay, in collaboration with MET and partners, have scheduled Family Forest Legacy Planning courses for early 2015 in Charles County, Allegany County, and the Eastern Shore.

Legacy planning can be an essential tool for landowners to pre-empt the challenges associated with the eventual transfer of the family woodlands or agricultural land to the next generation. Legacy planning helps to initiate dialogue between generations about keeping family lands and goals intact while working to minimize financial, legal and personal challenges that can be associated with estate transfer, inheritance and land management.

The goal of these courses is to provide an initial overview of planning and the specific tools, strategies and opportunities available in Maryland to develop your own plan.

The Forests for the Bay program goal is to educate landowners about the connection between healthy woodlands and clean water and that the healthiest woods are managed. The number of private woodland owners in this region is increasing rapidly as forestry budgets to address their needs are shrinking. Forestry for the Bay is intended to help fill that service gap.

For more information visit: www.forestryforthebay.org or contact MET.

Director's Note

(continued from page 2)

we are in the age of private land conservation and must continue to focus on voluntary easements as the most effective tool to conserve land. In this last director's column from me, I ask for your continued support of this wonderful organization, especially through this time of change. I owe MET so much for the experience and support and wish I could personally thank each and every one of you for helping to make it possible!

2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Trustees (BOT) 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 Tawes Building (DNR), 580 Taylor Ave, Conference Room C1, Annapolis, MD, 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 in 2015:

**April 6 | May 4 | June 1 | September 14
October 5 | November 2 | December 7**

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 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 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!



For the second year, MET has partnered with the University of Maryland, College Park and sponsored a nine month internship for a graduate student. This year Nick Finio is assisting MET. Nick is in his second year as a graduate student in the UMD Community Planning Master's degree program and will graduate in May.

"Working at MET was a natural fit for me," said Nick, who is interested in preserving the natural environment and improving land use policies of local and state government to prevent suburban sprawl. Nick is currently conducting field work and assisting staff with the annual inspections of easement properties.

He has worked on a multitude of projects, with an emphasis on using GIS mapping software, conference planning and coordinating MET efforts with local planning agencies and local land trusts. Nick lives in Takoma Park with his wife and son, and is enjoying his experience working in the "real world" at MET.

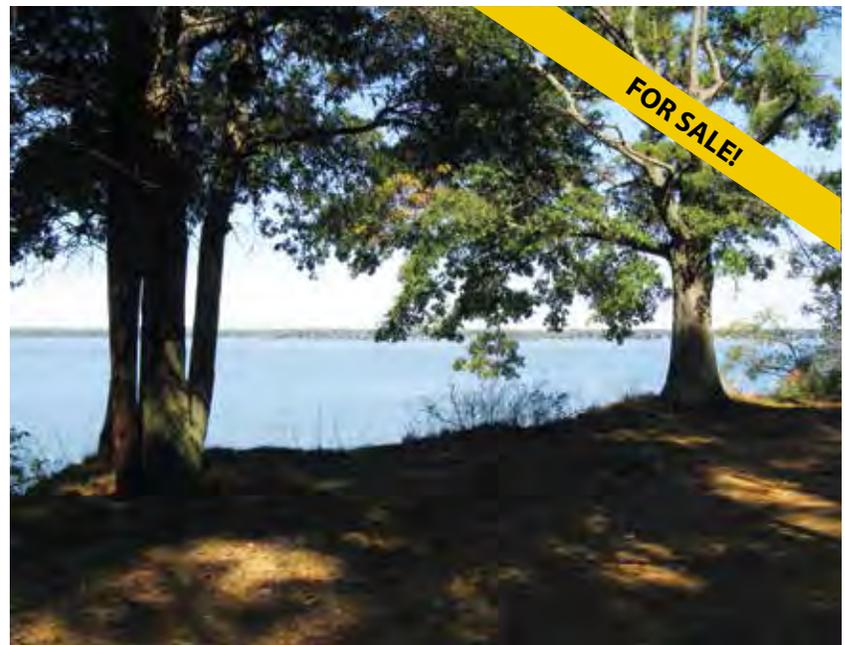
Congratulations to the American Chestnut Land Trust and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy for their accreditation in 2014!

Accreditation recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission first awarded the seal to accredited land trusts in 2008.

In Maryland the following land trusts have been accredited:

- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- The Potomac Conservancy

MET is working towards accreditation and the Board recently adopted an Accreditation Work Plan. For more information about Accreditation, please visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org/.



View from Indian Head property.

Waterfront Property For Sale

This 11 acre wooded property located within the Town of Indian Head is being offered for sale. It is platted for 21 lots and fronts the Potomac River. Please contact Damon Conway, Land Acquisition Specialist, Department of General Services, 410-767-4309 or Damon.Conway@maryland.gov for more information.

Help Build the MET Stewardship Fund!

With every conservation easement MET agrees to hold, it accepts the responsibility to monitor the property regularly and ensure that the terms of the easement are upheld forever. In 2006, MET established a dedicated Stewardship Fund to support the ongoing stewardship expenses including staff and volunteer training, transportation, data management, communications and photography. Of course, unrestricted contributions to MET are always appreciated.

MET qualifies as a charitable organization by the IRS. 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. We are grateful for your generous support!



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

(August 1, 2014 - February 1, 2015)

Every effort has been made to properly acknowledge all contributors.

Please contact Wendy Stringfellow at 410-514-7905 if a listing is in error.

Conservation Champion \$10,000+

The estate of Alverta and
Louisa Dillon
The estate of Sarah Griggs

Environmental Benefactor \$5,000-\$9,999

The Helena Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Parker

Green Space Guardian \$1,000-\$4,999

Doris Blazek-White and
Thacher W. White
Frank and Helen Bonsal
Brown Advisory
James and Katie Constable
Gerret Copeland
Louisa C. Duemling
Exxonmobil Foundation
Royce Hanson
Hunting Ridge Farm
L'Aiglon Foundation
Constance J. Lieder
Stanislaw Maliszewski and
Julia Jitkoff
Mr. and Mrs. James R. O'Connell
O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP
The Honorable S. Jay Plager
Riepe Family Foundation
Valleys Planning Council, Inc.
Julia J. Young

Habitat Hero \$500-\$999

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Wilson and Nancy Coudon
Tim and Julie Hussman
Steven P. Quarles
Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Rocca
Tod and Barry Salisbury
Mrs. Barbara P. Webbert
(In memory of George V. Palmer)

Land Supporter \$100-\$499

Frank and Christina Allen
John and Marjorie Blodgett
Perry Bolton
Dean M. Bona
Nelson Bortz
David C. Bramble
Marney S. Bruce
Dr. and Mrs. Gary P. Carver
Jeffrey E. Christ
Nessly Craig
(In memory of William Servary)
Dr. Gail Cunningham and
Mr. David Sutphen
Robert and Julia Deford
Robert James Etgen
Joe and Cindy Galli
Mrs. Ruann Newcomer George
Amanda A. Gibson
Dr. Richard Gold and Mr. John
Hollyday - Hollyday Family, LLC
David Greene

Greg and Donna Greisman
Mr. Philip R. Hager
Charlotte D. Hawes
Mrs. Francis Iglehart Jr.
Ken Ingham
Nancy H. Isaacson (In memory of
David and Maxine Hammond)
Thomas Jeffers
Ellen Harvey Kelly
Kilby's Inc.
Ms. Barbara Knapp
Thomas B. Lloyd
Ms. Marilyn Mause
(In honor of Robert Grate)
Mr. Nelson Offutt
Werner & Elizabeth Fritz
Schumann
Delegate Dana Stein
Matthew & Desiree Stover
William C. Trimble, Jr.
Gita S. van Heerden/
The Ganlee Fund
Dr. Henry A. Virts
Stanley and Gail Watkins
Kathryn Weise
(In memory of Stephen Weise)
Mr. Ward H. White

Friend \$10-\$99

The Aybar Family
Scott and Carol Bartram
John R. Beever

Ron Boyer/ Liz McDowell
Gemmell Bruner
Vladimir Dupre
Sophia Cadwalader Hayes
Kenneth Holland
Barbara L. Hopkins, ESQ
Mr. Edward R. Huber
Ms. Ann H. Jones
Richard W. Klein, Sr.
(In memory of Florence G. Klein)
Kristen Orff Maneval
(In memory of Henry V. Orff)
R.E. Orff
Dr. William Rienhoff III
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph
Wentworth
John S. Weske
Helen Wilkes

Recent Easement Donors

Grande View Properties, LLC
Kilbys, Inc.
Michael & Jennifer Krueger
James E. Myers, Richard W. Myers
and James E. Daniell
Estate of Elizabeth F. Obenshain

Open Space Legacy Society

Dr. and Mrs. Gary P. Carver
Ms. Constance J. Lieder
The Honorable S. Jay Plager
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Schmaljohn



Protecting Land Forever

100 Community Place
1st Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032
Tel: 410-514-7900
Fax: 410-514-7919
www.dnr.maryland.gov/met

Address Service Requested



STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news.

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper using soy-based inks.

Did You Know?

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1967. By statute, MET is governed by a citizen-led Board of Trustees that includes representatives of the Governor and State Legislature.

MET serves as the statewide land trust. The mission of MET is to protect land from development through donated conservation easements. A conservation easement is a perpetual legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits the uses on the land in order to protect its conservation values. It ensures that a property shall not be developed or subdivided beyond an agreed limit. The land is thereby protected and preserved while the landowner retains all rights of ownership and privacy. An easement is binding on all future landowners.

MET accepted its first easement donation in 1972, a time when land protection and conservation easements were still in their infancy. Today, MET is one of the oldest and most successful land trusts in the nation. Working with 56 local land trust partners, MET has permanently protected over 130,000 acres on more than 1,065 properties encompassing all 23 counties and the City of Baltimore, primarily through voluntary conservation easements.

Leave a Legacy

Become a member of the Open Space Legacy Society (OSLS)

The OSLS honors individuals who have provided for MET in their estate plans. If you would like to become a charter member please contact Wendy Stringfellow at 410-514-7905 or wendy.stringfellow@maryland.gov.