

Land Marks

Maryland Environmental Trust
Protecting Land Forever

Meet the Next Generation of Conservation Easement Donors

BY: KAT PARDOE

Nestled in Baltimore County there is a beautiful, 12 acre easement that packs a lot of character in a modest amount of land. Renae and John Olver recently made the decision to protect and preserve their land with MET to strengthen conservation efforts already underway in their community. The Olver easement adds 12 acres to the neighboring easement of 55 acres, also held by MET.

The Olvers have lived in Baltimore County for many years. They share a fondness for the unique landscapes that can be found in the region. The couple enjoys a variety of ecosystems on their property, including significant forest area and a tributary for Little Gunpowder Falls. All sorts of biodiversity and wildlife can be spotted on their land — bald eagle nests sit high above in the branches of spruce and oaks, bats fly overhead at dusk, and a flock of chickens supplying the Olvers with farm fresh eggs roams the yard.

Indeed, the Olvers have found a miniature haven in their property, but the couple didn't donate their easement just for their own enjoyment. Through attending local



Renae Olver and her husband John recognize the ecological value of their land for its biodiversity and particularly as part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; they understand that preserving land near tributaries and rivers is vital for the continued health of the Chesapeake Bay.



The front yard of the Olver property.

community gatherings hosted by friends of MET, including Manor Conservancy and Sparks Glenco Community Planning Council, Renae and John were able to learn about the benefits of land preservation and scenic byways. It was in this setting where the Olvers were first introduced to the idea of a conservation easement. They came to recognize the ecological value of their land for its biodiversity and particularly as part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; they understand that preserving land near tributaries and rivers is vital for the continued health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Olvers hope their decision to donate an easement will inspire others in the area to get involved with the environmental community and start "doing their part to *Continued on page 13*



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Director's Note

Ebbs and Flows

Dear Friend,

Summer is coming to a close, marking the end of a great period of vitality in nature. Now, as the days grow shorter, we await the metamorphic energy of fall. The ebbs and flows of nature's cycles have been felt at MET, as well. New life has been breathed into the organization, and major change is just around the corner.



I have assumed the role of Acting Director at a particularly transformative time for MET. After great anticipation, the Forever Maryland Foundation is due to begin operations this fall. This marks the culmination of a three-year effort by MET to create a new independent nonprofit whose purpose is to strengthen the land trust and conservation community of Maryland, including MET, through education, outreach, and advocacy. The MET Board is providing significant grant funding to the Foundation over a two-year period to help establish this new organization.

While the process of creating the new Foundation has been intensive, it has not hindered progress with MET's core work. In Fiscal Year 2019 we made great strides in accepting new conservation easements and in monitoring our existing portfolio of conserved lands. Thirteen easements protecting 940 acres were granted to MET this fiscal year, bringing our total to more than 136,000 acres protected statewide. With the help of our volunteers and land trust partners, more than 700 MET easements were monitored in FY 2019, which is more than 60% of the easements we hold. The Keep Maryland Beautiful program had another fantastic year of grant-giving in 2019 with the most applications it has ever received and over \$215,500 awarded to community organizations for their environmental efforts. MET's annual land conservation conference was a great success with 170 attendees representing 94 organizations from across the state and region.

I feel very fortunate to be Acting Director during this exciting time for MET. Our team is embracing the many changes our organization is undergoing, just as we welcome the changing leaves of fall. As MET weathers these organizational changes, our constituents can rest assured of our resolute commitment to protecting Maryland's beautiful lands. We thank you for your continued support of MET and hope you share in our excitement of these developments to come.

Regards,
John Turgeon



FOREVER
MARYLAND

Enhancing and advancing land conservation in Maryland

Advocacy Outreach
Education

FOREVER
MARYLAND

MET is excited to announce its support of the Forever Maryland Foundation. This innovative and bold venture started operating in September 2019 to advance land conservation in Maryland through outreach, education and advocacy.

Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Recipient: KEYS Empowers

KEYS EMPOWERS IS BRINGING HEALING THROUGH BEAUTIFICATION TO BALTIMORE'S YOUTH.

BY: KAT PARDOE

When you think back on your childhood, what comes to mind? Many of us reflect back on our youth to recall joyful memories of play and laughter. We remember the getting to know the world through a lens of innocence and wonder. Sadly, however, not all children are privileged enough to enjoy such a lighthearted childhood. In parts of Baltimore City, children's early years can be marked by hunger, uncertainty, and violence. Noting the importance of preserving and nurturing the joy that is at the crux of a healthy childhood, KEYS Empowers, a branch of the larger KEYS Development group, has stepped in to provide crucial support.

As an organization, KEYS — “Keep Encouraging Youth to Succeed” — focuses on youth development in Baltimore in many different respects. With the help of a Keep Maryland Beautiful grant awarded in 2017, KEYS Empowers, the branch charged with providing behavioral and mental health support to underserved communities, launched a new project with the goal of emotionally supporting Baltimore's youth.

With their Keep Maryland Beautiful grant, KEYS Empowers broke ground on a new Trauma Garden. The concept behind the garden is straightforward: bring healing and hope back to traumatized communities, especially children and teens. Many youth in Baltimore have lost their sense of innocence far too young as they witness the hardships that grip their neighborhoods — job loss, crime, death; the garden serves as a visual representation of renewal and growth that counteracts these negative experiences.

Children and teens get a hands-on experience with the garden by planting things like flowers, tomatoes and cucumbers in the spring season. As the garden begins to grow, the colorful blossoms bring a renewed sense of joy to circumstances that may often seem bleak. Throughout the seasons, the kids are able to



With their Keep Maryland Beautiful grant, KEYS Empowers broke ground on a new Trauma Garden with the hope that it can bring healing and hope back to traumatized communities, especially children and teens.

witness the payoffs of their hard work, and begin to believe in their abilities to positively impact the world. The garden attracts all sorts of community members who are able to enjoy its bounty and connect over shared struggles. Ajah Doswell, who oversees the implementation of the project for KEYS Empowers, says that this dynamic has helped to “knock down barriers” between different people in the community, fostering a sense of healing and support amongst everybody.

Keep Maryland Beautiful is proud to support the efforts of organizations such as KEYS Empowers as they work to better Maryland's communities through beautification and connection.



Children and teens get hands-on experience with the garden by planting things like flowers, tomatoes and cucumbers in the spring season.



Keep Maryland Beautiful Awards \$215,505 in Grants in 2019!

On March 20, Keep Maryland Beautiful Day, MET awarded grants totaling \$215,505 toward environmental education, community cleanup and beautification projects through the Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program.

These annual grants are funded by MET, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT).

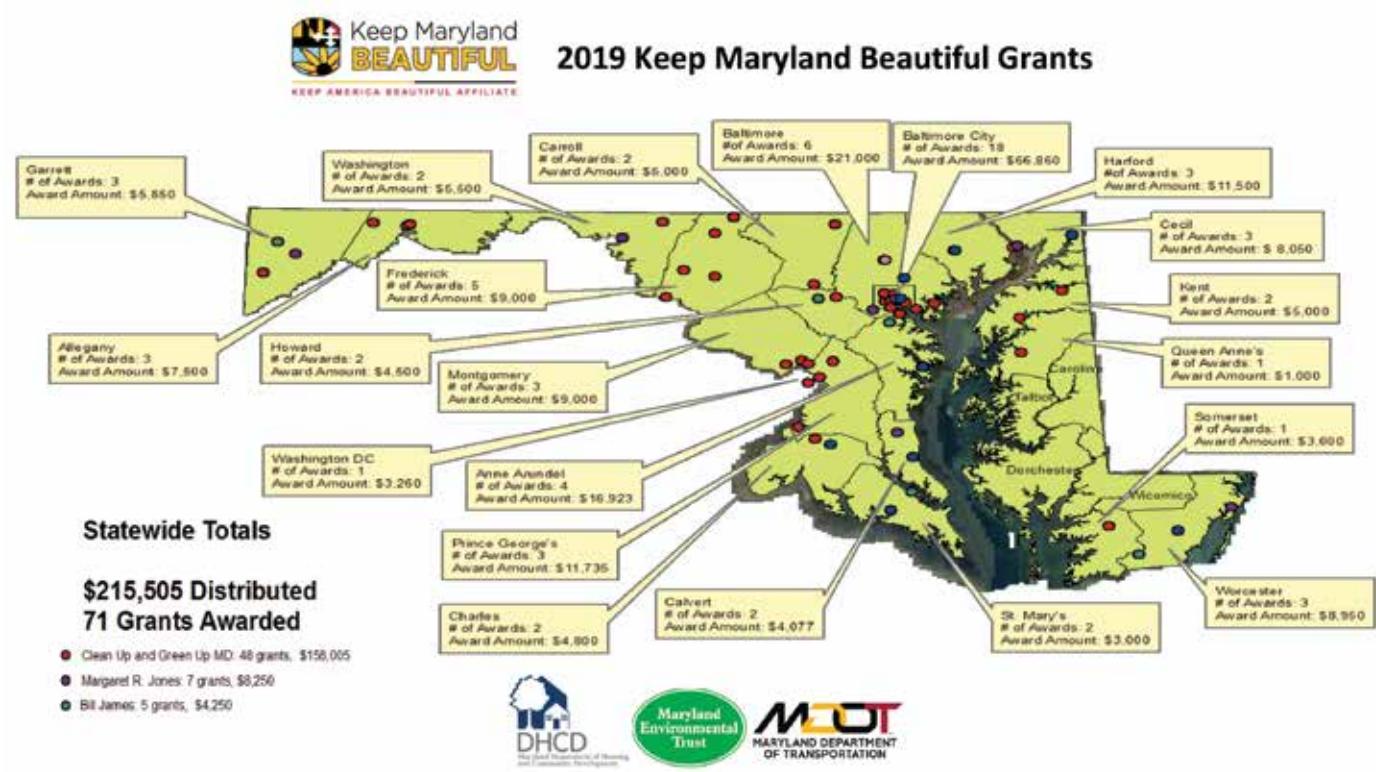
"The Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program is an ideal tool to support local solutions for improving our communities and the environment across the state," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio said. "This long-standing partnership reflects the pride and sense of stewardship we all share for Maryland's outdoors."

"Through a cooperative multi-agency partnership led by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Keep Maryland Beautiful program focuses on neighborhood beautification through increasing greening, citizen stewardship, community education, and litter removal," explained DHCD Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "I'm gratified on behalf of the Hogan administration that DHCD is able to support Keep Maryland Beautiful through substantial investment in the grants program,



Students from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County collect cans, bottles and trash.

a partnership with Maryland Environmental Trust and MDOT that is one of the most visible ways we are able to accomplish the overall Keep Maryland Beautiful mission."



Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Applications are being accepted October 1 - November 14, 2019.

"These grants are a great way for MDOT to partner to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed while meeting Marylanders' day-to-day transportation needs," said MDOT Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

Recipients included schools, nonprofit groups, municipalities and land trusts in 15 counties and two major urban municipalities, Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. Many of these grants focus on developing and supporting communities, families, youth and students who take personal responsibility for the health of their communities, protecting nature in their backyards and seeking ways to help reduce or resolve environmental challenges.

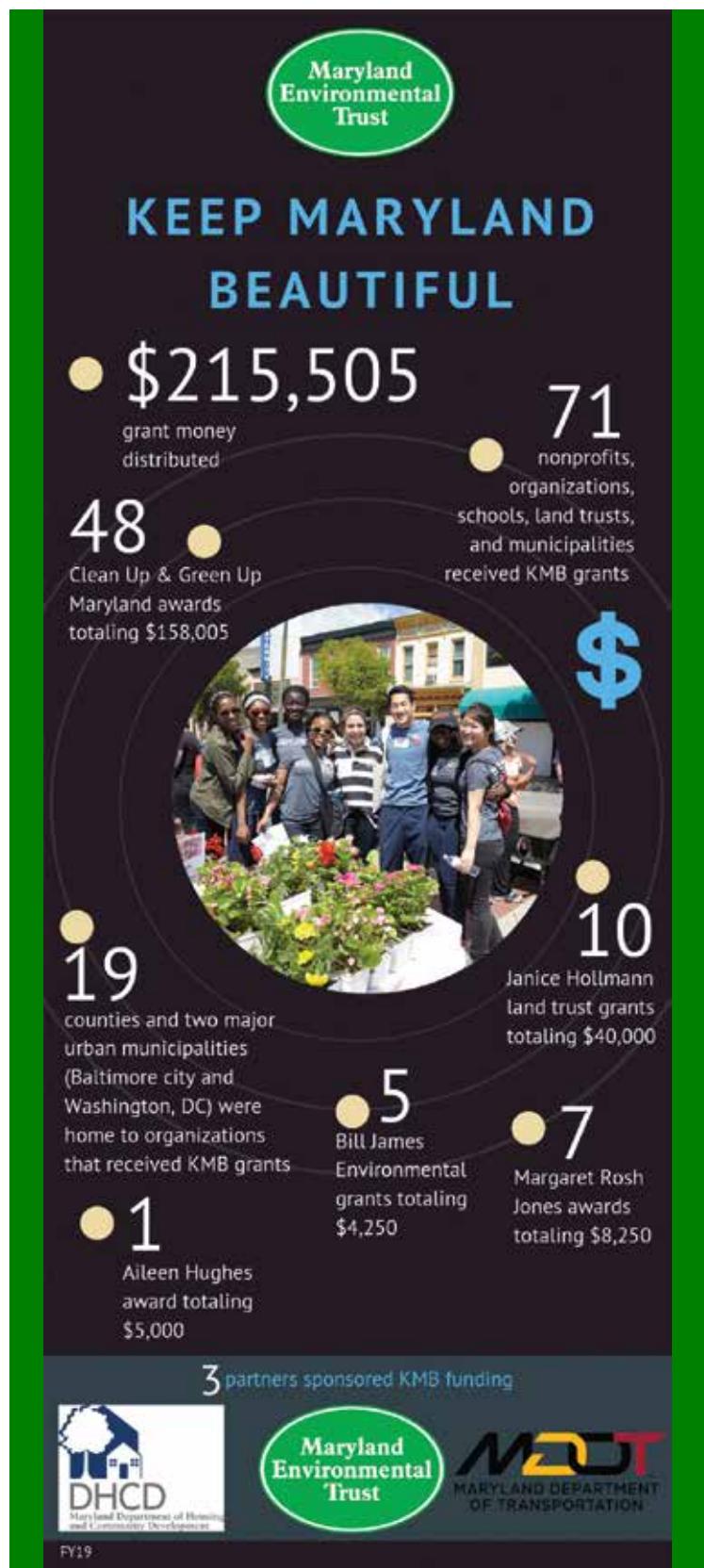
For more information about the Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program visit MET's grants webpage.

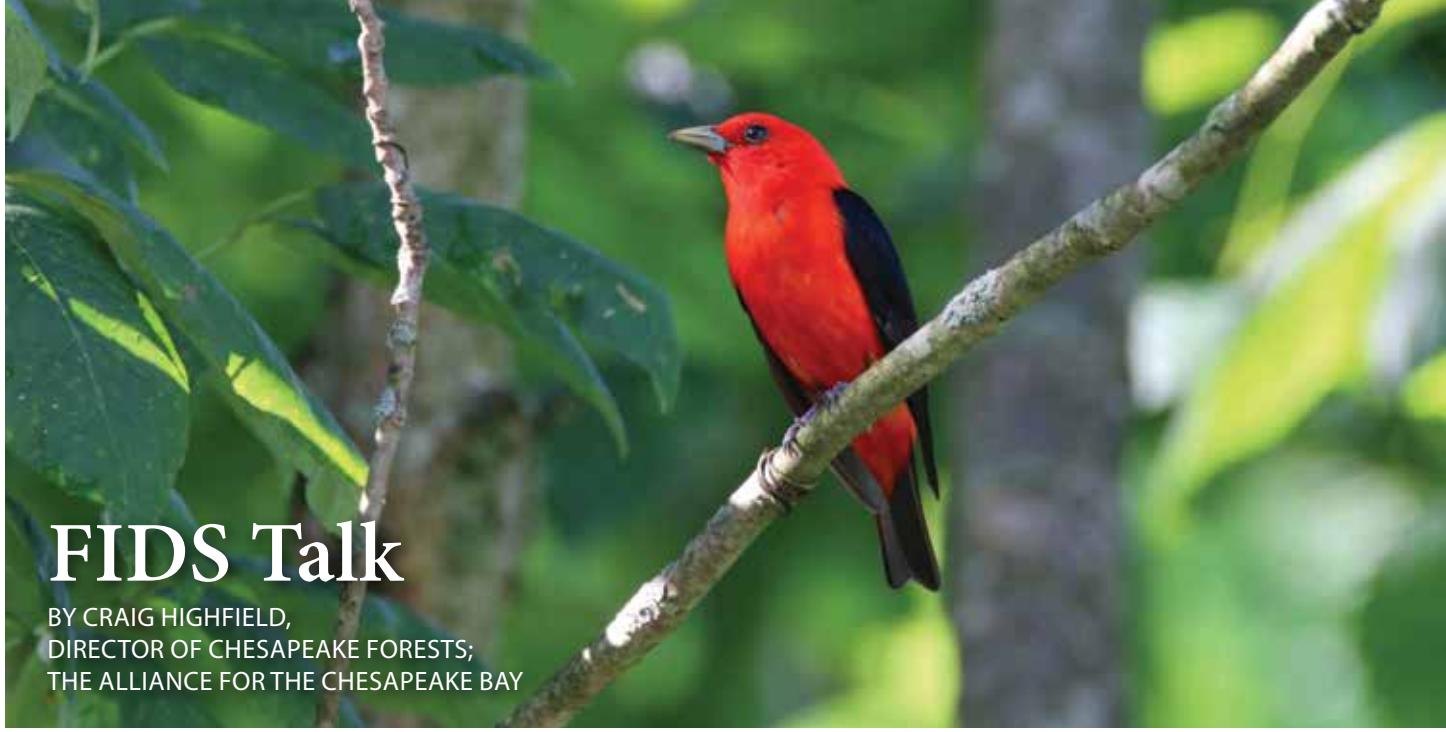
Bill Leahy Departs for California

The Land Trust Community wished former MET Executive Director Bill Leahy farewell to the Pacific Coast, with a sendoff from Baltimore's Guinness Brewery. Bill was the Executive Director of MET for three years and was fundamental in helping MET fund and launch the Forever Maryland Foundation, as well as implementing a new database, and unveiling a new easement monitoring tool. He was also instrumental in working with conservation leaders in Frederick and Washington Counties to create the Heart of Maryland Conservation Alliance, a regional partnership that seeks collaborative approaches to greater conservation outcomes in these two counties.



Jon Chapman, Sarah Knebel, MET's Acting Director John Turgeon, Wendy Hershey, Bill Leahy, Wendy Stringfellow, Ann Jones, and Ted Sudol at the Guinness Brewery.





FIDS Talk

BY CRAIG HIGHFIELD,
DIRECTOR OF CHESAPEAKE FORESTS;
THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



Barred owl. Photo by Christopher Lee



Baltimore oriole. Photo by Jeff Dyke



Pileated woodpecker. Photo by Mitch Adolph

Forest Interior Dwelling Species, or FIDS, are bird species with habitat preferences for large contiguous forest blocks, located at least 300 feet from the forest's edge. Maryland is home to 25 species of FIDS. Many of them, like the scarlet tanager and northern parula are migrants that fly south for the winter. Other species, such as the barred owl and the pileated woodpecker, migrate only short distances or not at all.

FIDS can also differ in their feeding and nesting habits, but they all prefer the unique environment in the interior of mature hardwood forests, which tends to have a damper climate and more layers of vegetation than the forest edge. Nesting and breeding in the interior shield these species from direct competition with forest edge birds like American robins, northern cardinals, European starlings and red-tailed hawks while also reducing threats from nest parasites like the brown headed cowbirds and nest predators like black rat snakes and domestic cats.

FIDS habitat has been drastically reduced over the last century primarily due to the development and the fragmentation of forests. Fragmentating forests into smaller properties increases forest edge.

In most instances, a forest of least 50 acres with significant canopy and understory structure would be needed to support FIDS habitat. The invasion of non-native plants and the excessive browsing of an overabundant deer population in our woodlands can degrade even the highest quality FIDS habitat.

Owning a woodlot with quality FIDS habitat is exceptional in Maryland since a vast amount of our forestland is in parcels smaller than 50 acres. Conserving FIDS habitat, however, is not necessarily at odds with a landowner's goal to harvest timber. Silvicultural practices are often used to enhance a variety of wildlife habitat. For instance, a timber harvest is essential for creating young forest habitat for species like golden winged warbler and Bobwhite quail.

A cross section of agencies at Maryland DNR developed regulations and guidelines for harvesting timber in FIDS habitat in the Critical Area. These are also required harvest practices when FIDS habitat is a conservation feature of a MET easement. The guidelines take into consideration the size of the parcel, forest type, harvest location and other conditions. Implementing other forestry practices like vegetative management and forest thinning are often helpful in improving overall forest health and maintaining quality FIDS habitat. We highly recommend that any timber harvest or forestry practice be guided by a Forest Stewardship Plan prepared by a licensed professional forester.

If you want to know if FIDS inhabit your woodlot, learn to recognize some calls of Maryland's population, like the fluting call of the wood thrush or the cheery call of the red eyed vireo, and then get out into your woods and listen.

Large photo (top): Scarlet Tanager. Photo by Donald Dedmon.

Planning an Urban Oasis

AN INTERVIEW WITH CONSTANCE LIEDER

BY WENDY STRINGFELLOW

Constance "Connie" Lieder: former MET Board Chair, Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Committee Chair, Secretary of MD State Planning, activist, urban planner, pioneer, and conservation easement donor. I had the pleasure of interviewing Connie in her beautiful old Georgian Brownstone in Baltimore City on a drizzly fall day last September. Here is what Connie had to say:

You grew up in Cincinnati, have lived in Boston, and now Baltimore for the past 55 years. Tell us about your interest in protecting land.

My introduction to the environment and open spaces was going to camp as a child in Ohio and learning to appreciate the outdoors. During my childhood, we would also spend weekends at a friend's farm in nearby Indiana. I came to understand that it isn't just land that's important, it's what on it. It's all connected. Being outside has always been important to me. I couldn't live in a city that doesn't have open spaces.

How did you get involved with MET?

I was a city planner for Baltimore in the 1960's and Secretary of Planning for the state of Maryland from 1979 to 1989 before I got involved with Maryland Environmental Trust. Back then there was not a lot of interest in the environment. I was interested in urban renewal and helped plan the Baltimore Inner Harbor. It was a wasteland that people had trouble envisioning as a place where people would want to go. There was no marina, no



Connie Lieder has been working to improve and protect land in Maryland for decades.

recreational boating. When I left my position as Secretary of Planning, I was asked to join Maryland Environmental Trust's Board. I was a member of the Board for 28 years, and served as chair for eight years. I also served on the Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) grants committee as Chair for decades.

Tell us about your thoughts on the Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Program:

KMB represents the idea that you don't have to do massive things to make a difference. The KMB grants are small grants that began for small groups ... Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Church Groups, Science Groups, and Ecology Clubs. These projects improve areas around neighborhoods. It's hard to take care of the environment on a large scale. It's much easier on a small scale and the KMB grants provide means for small groups to make a difference. (*KMB is MET's oldest program and dates back to 1967. MET has handed out millions of dollars through these small grants.*)

What about MET are you most proud of?

MET is unique. It enables individuals to accomplish something ... like preserve their own land through a conservation easement. It's different than working through the state. People can make a difference themselves. Other land trusts have orphan easements but MET is backed by the government ... by the Office of the Attorney General ... which means these easements are protected in perpetuity. Individuals can make a difference.





EASEMENT PROGRAM

- 1,148 acres conserved

Anne Arundel
Baltimore
Howard
Kent
Montgomery
Wicomico



- 15 easement projects completed



- 6 counties

- 72 acres average size of easement

- 13 conservation easements granted to MET

***11 easements co-held with non-profit land trusts
***2 easements solely held by MET
***1 amended easement

- assisted Conservancy for Charles County to complete 1 easement

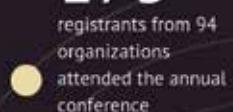
For over 50 years MET has been safeguarding Maryland's vital lands and water.

FY19



LAND TRUST ASSISTANCE

- 173 registrants from 94 organizations attended the annual conference



- 41 local land trusts supported by MET



- 10 Janice Hollmann land trust grants totaling \$40,000

● 2 roundtables and workshops held for technical support and training in best practices for land trusts and conservation partners

For 50 years MET has been supporting citizen groups in forming and operating land trusts for the conservation and stewardship of open spaces, farmland, woodlands and other natural and historic areas.

FY19

SPRING INTERN, SIYAO MA

My name is Siyao Ma and I'm a geography major at the University of Maryland. While my main academic interests have been centered on geography's influence on cultures and its relation with international affairs, I took the spring semester to explore a new path. My internship at Maryland Environmental Trust mainly involved building and updating a geodatabase through ArcGIS, a mapping software program. The geodatabase contains the boundaries and relevant information of the easements managed by MET. Through this position, I was able to apply and enhance my geographical information science skills, and learn about the work that land trusts such as MET do. I am grateful that this internship provided me with an opportunity to gain new insight about how land resources are protected at the local level in Maryland.





STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- 136,268 acres preserved
- 1,107 conservation easements



- 597 conservation easements coheld with partners
- 716 monitoring reports completed by MET staff, volunteers, and local land trusts

- 79,403 acres monitored

For 50 years MET has been supporting private landowner stewards who are safeguarding Maryland's vital lands and water

FY19



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- 16,548 acres monitored
- \$3,383 value of time donated

- 144 volunteer field monitoring reports reviewed and filed



- 61 new long-term certified MET volunteers
- 35 Maryland Conservation Corp volunteers

- 335 hours donated by volunteers

Volunteer Land Stewards represent the Trust, schedule visits, meet landowners, share stewardship ideas, and document changes to help preserve the conservation values that make these lands special.

FY19



MEET SUMMER INTERN, DYLAN FISHBEIN

My name is Dylan Fishbein and I am a senior at the University of Maryland studying Environmental Science, Environmental Policy, and Anthropology. This past spring, I studied the interaction between cultures and environmental systems in Bhutan. My interests lie in sustainable agriculture and agroecology, and I hope to shape and form sustainable food systems in my career.

This summer, I worked with MET's stewardship team to redesign the ways we communicate information to new landowners. I created an information packet that will help landowners better understand their resources and responsibilities as stewards of protected lands. This experience has been incredible — as someone who grew up in a dense suburban environment, it has been reassuring to see energy and effort being put into preserving Maryland's open spaces and inspiring to see the people behind this small, state-level government agency work to actualize the conservation values of Maryland's environmentalists.

2019 MARYLAND LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM

Maryland Environmental Trust hosted the 2019 Maryland Land Conservation Conference and Symposium on May 16th and 17th at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, MD.

The annual conference was attended by more than 170 people representing 94 organizations from across the Chesapeake Bay region. The annual Land Conservation Conference is the only statewide event of its kind in Maryland and provides an opportunity to unite land trusts, conservancies, governmental organizations, heritage organizations, members of the agricultural community and other partners for a comprehensive discussion about the present and future challenges and opportunities facing the land conservation movement in our region.

This year's conference featured our traditional offerings (on May 16) including a keynote address, luncheon speaker, education sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Themes for the educational sessions included: Conservation Innovation in Agriculture, Frontiers in Conservation Financing, and Advanced Topics in Conservation.



Keynote speaker, Dr. Mamie Parker (Former Northeast Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service) on May 16.



Land Conservation Conference Morning Plenary panel on May 16.

The annual Land Conservation Conference is the only statewide event of its kind in Maryland and provides an opportunity for a discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing the land conservation movement in our region.



Land Conservation Symposium Elected Official panel on May 17.

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GOODLOE E. “GEB” BYRON, JR.

MET thanks Goodloe E. “Geb” Byron Jr. for his 14 years of service as a member of the Maryland Environmental Trust’s Board of Trustees. Geb was presented with a Governor’s Citation at the June 17 Board Meeting in recognition of his service to MET.

Outside of his involvement with MET, Geb is Chairman of the Maryland Venture Capital Trust, a member of the Maryland Venture Fund Authority, and former Chairman of the Maryland Deposit Insurance Fund, which was established to oversee the liquidation of failed state-insured savings and loans. Mr. Byron is also a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Higher Education Investment Fund and the Board of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Mr. Byron’s family has been involved in conservation in Maryland for many years. His parents, both members of Congress, were instrumental in protecting the C&O Canal, Monocacy Battlefield, the Appalachian Trail, and Antietam Battlefield.

He lives on a historic farm that was part of the Battle of South Mountain. He continues his service to Maryland as CEO and Managing Director of Potomac Asset Management.

PHOTO: MET Board Chair Mary Burke Presents Geb Byron with a Governor’s Citation.

New Faces at MET

DR. SCOTT M. BARAO

Scott is a graduate of Michigan State University where he received his Ph.D. in beef cattle nutrition/management along with a B.S. degree in human nutrition and an M.S. degree in microbiology. Scott was on the faculty at the University of Maryland for 20 years serving as the state Beef Specialist and Beef Program Leader and retiring as a full professor in 2005.



Since 2005, Scott has been the Executive Director of the Jorgensen Family Foundation, a nonprofit, Agricultural Research and Education Foundation. Scott also directs the operation of Hedgeapple Farm, the centerpiece of the foundation and a nationally recognized model of profitable and sustainable beef cattle production.

Scott has also served as the Executive VP of the Maryland Cattlemen's Association and Beef Council continuously since 1985. He and his family live on Fieldstone Farm in Carroll County.

PAULETTE GREENE

Paulette Greene is an educator, agri-herbalist, and community activist. She and her partner, Donna, own and manage Mt. Pleasant Acres Farms, (MPAF) located in the Poplar Neck region of Caroline County. MPAF is a key component of the historic Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad.

Paulette and her partner have created Mt. Pleasant Heritage Preservation, Inc., a nonprofit "heritage foundation" to preserve, promote, and support the farm and surrounding land as a leading site of pre-Civil War life in Maryland, and to educate youth and local citizens in the historical and social context of "free Black" life in the area. In addition, they grow organic produce and grain crops.

Ms. Greene is a board member of Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Jonestown Community Development Corp., Mt. Pleasant Heritage Preservation, Inc., and a former Board President of People for Better Housing, Inc. in Federalsburg, MD. She is also a member of Envision The Choptank and The American Legion, Blake-Blackston Auxiliary Unit #77, Easton, MD.

Paulette was a key leader and visionary in the expansion of Mt. Calvary UMC in Preston, MD where she served as a Trustee and Chair of the Building Committee.



GREG BOWEN

Greg Bowen grew up on a farm in Calvert County. In 1976, he served on the County Commissioner — appointed citizen committee to look into land preservation tools. From that work came the state's first county transferable development rights program.

In 1978, he joined the county's planning staff. In the following 32+ years, he helped to shepherd the county's land preservation program, including participation in the state land preservation programs, the county transferable development rights program, and two county purchase of development rights programs. It also gave him the chance to work with Calvert County's five land trusts.

He retired from county employment in 2011 after serving the last six years as the Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning. In 2015, he became executive director of the American Chestnut Land Trust.

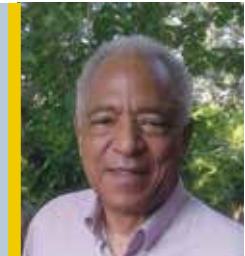


KEN MONTAGUE

Ken Montague grew up on a family farm near Clarksville in Howard County, which remains in his family. He attended Loyola High School in Baltimore, then Morgan State College, and later was a Peace Corps volunteer in South Africa from 1967-71. Upon return, he became a community leader in northeast Baltimore City, while attending law school at the University of Maryland.

Ken was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1986 and served four terms, including a prominent role on its Judiciary Committee, and was chosen a member of the executive committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. In 2003 he was selected by Governor Ehrlich to serve as Secretary of Juvenile Services.

After that term expired, he decided to apply for state Master Gardener certification, and since that time, has been occupied with urban gardening and land preservation in the City — while continuing to serve on a number of nonprofit boards and public commissions.



New Generation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

combat what we're up against." Since donating their easement, Renae Olver has become even more involved with her efforts to become a strong steward of the environment; Renae now serves as a volunteer monitor for MET, and sees it as an opportunity to give back to the land she's come to know and love in Maryland (and as a chance to travel around the state to see some stunning properties and landscapes, of course).

MET is thankful to the Olvers for their generosity as active stewards of the environment. The donation of their conservation easement symbolizes the power of piecemeal efforts in the fight to protect our environment and communities; small actions taken together have the potential to incite great change, and the Olvers hope to carry this idea through their community.



The Olver property supports a variety of ecosystems, including significant forest area.



Fresh eggs from the chicken coop.

2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of January, July and August.

The board meetings begin at 4:00 pm and are held at 100 Community Place, Third Floor, MHT Board Room 3.218, Crownsville, Maryland, unless notified otherwise. These are public meetings. Please contact MET if you plan to attend.

The following dates have been reserved for MET Board meetings:

2019: October 7, November 4, December 2

2020: February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, September 7, 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's stewardship staff to help make that determination. Activities that might require approval or notification include:

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

For complex matters, it may take a minimum of 30 days for MET to review and approve the proposed activities. Please contact Jon Chapman, Stewardship Program Manager, at 410-697-9519 to discuss your plans. All requests should be made in writing at least three weeks prior to the scheduled board meeting. Thank you!

Volunteer Appreciation

MET Stewardship staff thanked our volunteers with an Appreciation Event on July 24. Volunteers enjoyed dinner catered by Andy Nelson BBQ, and a discussion with DNR Forester Justin Arseneault and Anne Arundel County Special Rivers Buffer Technician Francis Smith, who spoke on Stream and Riparian Buffers. Volunteers were given aloe and jade plants grown and donated by MET Board member Julia Jitkoff, and redbud trees MET staff planted earlier this spring. Other gifts and prizes were also given in appreciation for their time and energy volunteering with MET.



Volunteer Stuart Stainman and Easement Stewardship Specialist Erin McNally at the Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Landowner Spotlight: Henry Jenkins

BY: MEGAN BILLINGSLEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, VALLEYS PLANNING COUNCIL

This article was first published in the April 2019 edition of the Valleys Planning Council Inc. newsletter.

I've known Henry Jenkins for about a year, and he always has come across as a calm, steady presence on the Board and Executive Committee. So it's fair to say that when I met up with him at his house the other day, I was not expecting to chat with a man whose enthusiasm and excitement for the land is reminiscent of a child's passion for their FAVORITE THING IN THE WORLD. Except that's exactly what the land is to him, his favorite thing in the world (other than his family).

"Lucky" and "caretaker" were two words that he repeatedly used during our conversation and both fit his relationship with the land. Henry's grandfather and great-uncle purchased 600 acres in 1927, stitching several smaller parcels to a larger one, and together they built Foster Farms. Henry's parents moved, with their four children, to the middle of the farm in the 1960s. Henry's father worked in construction and property development but his passion was raising short horn cattle on the farm. While most of us recall childhood chores with a bit of distaste, Henry recounted his time working his way up the equipment scale, from riding mowers to large tractors, with a good bit of nostalgia. It probably helped that his father assiduously paid an hourly wage and Henry's first social security contribution came at age 14.



Henry Jenkins's grandfather and great-uncle purchased 600 acres in 1927 and built Foster Farms. Today, the farm is split between three of the descendants of the original Foster Farm owners and all of it is under preservation. Henry feels lucky to be the caretaker of the property to future generations.



The farm is split between three of the descendants of the original Foster Farm owners and all of it is under preservation. Henry's step-grandmother, Mrs. Arthur D. Foster, started the preservation easement process for the land, putting a portion of the farm into the Maryland Environmental Trust in the 1980s. Henry, his brother Courtenay, and their cousin Whit Foster, placed the remainder of the land under easement with the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in the '90s.

I usually ask people how they became involved with the VPC and thus far there

have been a range of answers. With Henry, you could say he was born into it. Both his grandfather, Arthur D. Foster, Jr., and his step-grandfather, Nicholas G. Penniman III, were members of the original crew who pulled together the funds for the Plan for the Valleys; Henry still has the receipts in family records. For Henry, I don't think there was ever a moment where it would occur to him not to be a part of an organization that continually works to improve and preserve the valleys; in essence, an organization that tries to be an able caretaker for the lands that we are all lucky enough to enjoy.

Lighthawk Aerial Stewardship

MONITORING FROM 1,000 FEET IN THE AIR

This past spring MET Stewardship staff partnered with LightHawk to aerially monitor 26 conservation easements totaling over 11,300 acres in Somerset, Wicomico, Dorchester, Talbot, Cecil, and Kent counties.

MET Easement Stewardship Specialist Nora Jackson took to the skies for her first flight in a 1971 Cessna 150 with volunteer pilot Robert Panebianco, and flew again three weeks later in a Cessna 182RG with volunteer pilot Peter Watkins.

These flights provide important opportunities for MET to view some of our many conservation easements that may be difficult to see on foot because most of the property is a wetland. (MET landowners are always notified in writing or by phone prior to any monitoring visit.)

Post flight, Nora Jackson reflected that seeing the easements, the Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries from the air puts all of Maryland's land conservation efforts into perspective. Seeing it all from 1,000 ft above the ground added to her appreciation for Maryland's natural resources and a fresh jolt of inspiration for her work in land conservation.



Seeing the easements, the Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries from the air puts all of Maryland's land conservation efforts into perspective.



MET Easement Stewardship Specialist Nora Jackson took to the skies to aerially monitor 26 conservation easements totaling over 11,300 acres.



LightHawk, headquartered in Fort Collins, Colorado, was founded in 1979. It began with one man and a borrowed plane. Today they have expanded to include 200 volunteer pilots who fly to protect land, water and wildlife across America. LightHawk conservation staff works tirelessly to provide flights for partners. They pair organizations with volunteer pilots, who donate their time, fuel, and flight hours to a variety of causes.



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