



2022 ISSUE

Landmarks

New Easements in 2021 Protect Critical Lands in Four Maryland Counties

Above: View of the meadow and forest on the Loose Cow, LLC conservation easement property.

In 2021, Maryland Environmental Trust successfully negotiated the completion of six new conservation easements around the state, which added an additional 573 acres rich in ecological and agricultural resources to our portfolio of protected lands. All six of the new easements are co-held with local non-profit land trusts. The new easements protect land in Dorchester, Harford, St. Mary's, and Worcester Counties. Each of the projects represents a family who is dedicated to permanently protecting our natural resources for the benefit of future generations! It was a pleasure working with these landowners and land trust partners to conserve these wonderful lands.

State budget tightening to deal with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic limited MET to the services of only one easement planner during both 2020 and 2021. This severely impacted the number of new easements MET could complete in these years. However, the easement

program was able to hire a second planner in December of 2021, and we anticipate an uptick in the number of acres protected in 2022.

In Harford County, MET teamed up with the Harford Land Trust to accept three donated conservation easements.

Loose Cow, LLC, protected 27 acres near Bel Air. The property contains meadows, forest, and a headwater tributary of Heavenly Waters. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this property is known as Joshua's Meadows. Joshua's Meadows is also designated a Harford County Landmark by the Harford County Council.

MET and Harford Land Trust protected the new 48-acre preserve owned by the Harford County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The property's forest and fields along Otter Point Creek will forever remain wildlife habitat free from development. The property falls within two separate

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Director's Note

Hope springs eternal, and this year is no exception! After two years of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, I am happy to report that Maryland Environmental Trust has successfully weathered the storm. While we spent much of the past two years with vacancies in crucial roles in our organization, it is with great excitement that we have welcomed many new faces to MET in the last year. Despite the hurdles we faced through the pandemic, we were still able to carry out our work at a high level.



During the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 new conservation easements granted to MET resulted in the protection of over 2,400 acres of land encompassing priority conservation areas for the State of Maryland, which preserve biodiversity, water quality, and scenic natural heritage. We are optimistic that by June 30th – the end of current fiscal year 2022 – we will have accepted new easements that protect another 1,200 or more acres of Maryland's most scenic and ecologically valuable land. This will send us past 140,000 total acres protected since MET was granted its first easement fifty years ago, in 1972.

I am also proud to share that MET has increased the number of easements monitored annually, even in the face of COVID restraints, thanks in large part to the assistance of our non-profit land trust partners, which jointly hold more than half of our easements. MET's robust corps of volunteer easement monitors have contributed mightily to these efforts and are also to thank for this achievement. Further, MET's pandemic-initiated implementation of the Lens system, a digital interface that allows staff and volunteers to monitor easements by computer using up-to-date aerial and satellite imagery, continues to pay dividends and accelerate our progress.

The non-profit Forever Maryland, MET's close partner, has successfully managed our Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants program in these trying years. COVID certainly did not slow down Maryland's communities in their efforts to promote environmental education and beautification projects. Last spring, with our funding partners at the State's Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Community Development, the MET/Forever Maryland team completed another successful round of grant distribution that resulted in yet another banner year for Keep Maryland Beautiful, which is described in this edition. We are confident that 2022 will be another competitive and successful year for the program.

I am immensely proud to look back on the past two years at MET and recognize all that our trustees, staff, partners, and volunteers have accomplished in the face of so many challenges. I hope you enjoy reading about our resilience and triumphs in the pages to follow. Now, with a full team in office, a strong and eager network of volunteers, close partnerships in the land trust community, and most importantly, the continued enthusiasm from Marylanders to protect and preserve our exceptional ecological heritage, we can forge onward with renewed vigor. We look forward to seizing the momentum of change that has come with the dwindling of the pandemic to pursue new opportunities that allow us to keep doing the work that we love.

Until next time,

John Turgeon

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



PROTECT

By working with landowners, local communities, and land trusts, MET protects nearly 140,000 acres of Maryland's most treasured landscapes and natural resources as a legacy for future generations. In 2021, MET partnered with five land trusts to complete **6 new conservation easements on 573 acres** in 4 counties.



STEWARD

Protecting land does not stop with the signing and recording of a conservation easement.

MET takes on obligations to ensure that easement provisions are upheld forever. As part of ensuring the long term protection of the land, MET works with partners to monitor conservation easements. In 2021, MET **monitored 910 easements** through in-person visits and review of aerial imagery.



PARTNER

MET relies on its partnerships with landowners, land trusts, local communities, and volunteers to accomplish its land conservation goals and to steward the more than 1,100 conservation easements MET holds across Maryland. In 2021, MET partnered with **20 local land trusts and 47 volunteers** to monitor more than 584 easements.



INVEST

The Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants program invests in environmental stewards. This program includes a robust partnership between MET, MDOT, DHCD and FM. In 2021, KMB grants totaling **\$312,500 were distributed to 91 awardees** in 19 counties and Baltimore City. Awardees included nonprofits, schools, communities and local land trusts.

Critical Lands Protected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



View of the property protected by an easement from the Harford County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League showing marsh and Otter Creek frontage.

conservation priority areas for MET: Targeted Ecological Area and the Biodiversity Conservation Network, or BioNet. Targeted Ecological Areas are identified by the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a conservation priority and include large blocks of forests and wetlands, rare species habitats, aquatic biodiversity hotspots and areas important for protecting water quality. BioNet is a web-based tool produced by the DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service that prioritizes areas for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity conservation. The Izaak Walton League preserve is visible from Willoughby Beach Road, and the Otter Point Creek, which is navigable by canoes and kayaks. This property is also adjacent to more than 400 acres of protected land including County-owned parkland and other MET easements.

The Pitts family through their family corporation, Patterson Mill LLC, ensured that their 43 acres will continue to provide habitat and water quality protection for



View of the forested property protected by an easement from Patterson Mill, LLC.

generations to come through the conservation easement it granted to MET and Harford Land Trust. This forested property in Harford County is located along the southern end of Patterson Mill Road near Emmorton. Edward Pitts, his wife, and children, came together to protect their family land. The entire property is located within the BioNet conservation priority area. Immediately across Patterson Mill Road to the northeast of the easement is the 5.36-acre Harford County-owned Bynum Run Conservation Area. The Pitts family's easement ensures their property will always be an open space oasis in the heart of Harford County's Development Envelope.

MET and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust were granted a new conservation easement on 56 acres in St. Mary's County, thanks to the Thorne family. The easement protects significant forest acreage that buffers tributary streams and wetlands feeding the tidal Potomac River. The property provides important forest habitat and is classified as being within the State-designated Biodiversity Conservation Network, making it a high priority for conservation. The Property is adjacent to more than 220 acres of protected land. The new easement was made possible with funding from the Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration ("REPI") program.



View of forested land in St. Mary's County conserved by an easement from the Thorne family.



View of property protected by an easement from the Smithson family showing frontage along the Pocomoke River.

Critical Lands Protected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

In Worcester County, MET and the Lower Shore Land Trust partnered to accept a conservation easement donation from the Smithson family. The conservation easement protects a 154-acre farm rich in ecological resources. The property is located within the Pocomoke-Nassawango Important Bird Area as designated by National Audubon Society. The property falls within three separate conservation priority areas for MET: Targeted Ecological Area, Biodiversity Conservation Network, and the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area. The property is adjacent to the Pocomoke State Forest. The property contains scenic road frontage along Nassawango Road, and scenic frontage along the Pocomoke River, which is navigable by recreational boats.

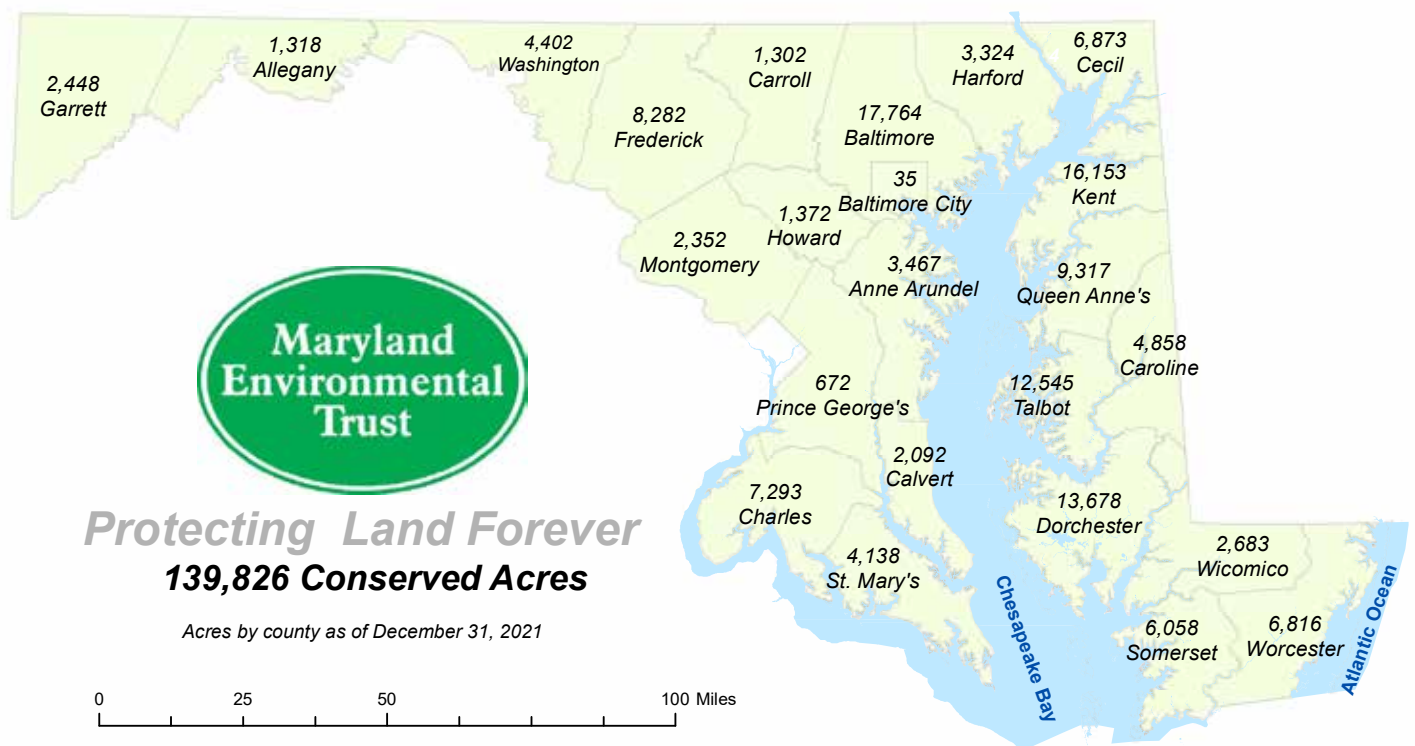
MET and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, with funding from the Navy's REPI program, acquired a conservation easement on the Watson farm, which contains 246 acres in Dorchester County. The easement permanently protects productive agricultural land, wetlands, and woodlands. Approximately 117 acres are classified by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service as containing prime farmland soil, and 70 acres are



Views of farmland on the Watson conservation easement in Dorchester County.

designated soils of statewide importance for agriculture. The property provides travelers along the Harriet Tubman Scenic Byway with picturesque views of its farmland and forest.

MET PROTECTED ACRES MAP





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MARYLAND**

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Land Conservation*

2022 Maryland Land Conservation Conference ***Celebrating Success. Planning for Change.***

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June 1 & 2, 2022

Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Kent Island

Learn from distinguished leaders on the current state of Chesapeake Bay restoration, smart growth, and conservation successes! Topics include: planning for climate change, fiscal uncertainty, emerging environmental challenges and so much more!

NEW FEATURES NOT TO MISS...

- *Maryland Conservation, Agriculture, & Environmental Gubernatorial Forum*
- *Waterfront Networking Happy Hour Reception*
- *Climate Focused Art Display*
- *Drone Demonstrations*

Thank you to the 2022 Conference Sponsors and Planning Committee!

**To purchase your ticket or
for more information -**
forevermaryland.org/2022-mlcc



2022 Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Total \$320,000



Maryland Environmental Trust and Forever Maryland are proud to announce that **85** grants totaling \$320,000 have been awarded toward environmental education, community cleanup, and beautification projects through the Keep Maryland Beautiful program. These annual grants are funded by the Maryland Environmental Trust, Forever Maryland, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and Maryland Department of Transportation.

“Keep Maryland Beautiful grants really do make our great state an even better place to live, work and play,” said Mary Burke, Chair of MET’s Board of Trustees. She added, “I was particularly impressed with the quality of the awardees’ projects this year. COVID didn’t appear to slow anyone down!” Ms. Burke also extended sincerest thanks to MET’s partners for supporting MET’s oldest program.

“We’re thrilled with the success we’ve seen from the grant program,” said Forever Maryland Chair Nick Dilks. “This program will continue to make a significant

environmental, economic, health, and recreational impact across Maryland through these new grant projects. “

Keep Maryland Beautiful recipients included schools, nonprofit groups, municipalities, and land trusts in 20 counties and Baltimore City. 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.

AWARDS GIVEN THIS YEAR WERE:

- One Aileen Hughes award totaling \$5,000, awarded to an individual representing a Maryland land trust for outstanding leadership, partnership, and innovation in a conservation project. The grant is awarded to the Maryland land trust in recognition of the individual’s efforts and good work. The grant is given annually to honor the late Aileen Hughes, a true leader in the Maryland conservation movement.
- 12 Citizen Stewardship awards totaling \$17,500, given in honor of the late President of the Maryland Senate,

2022 KMB GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Allegany County

Board of County Commissioners
of Allegany County
Historic Frostburg, a Maryland
Main Street Community, Inc.

Anne Arundel County

Annapolis Green, Inc.
Annapolis Maritime Museum &
Park
ClearShark Charitable Foundation
- ClearShark H2O
Scenic Rivers Land Trust Inc.

Baltimore City

3200 Carlisle Block
Association Inc.
Audrey Carter DBA Youth
Ventures

Baltimore Green Space - A Land
Trust for Community Managed
Open Space Inc.

Baltimore Sister Cities Inc.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
Ednor Gardens Lakeside Civic
Association

Fell’s Point Main Street
Greater Baybrook Alliance
Gwynns Falls Community
Association

Lafayette Square Community
Development Corporation
Living Classrooms Foundation
Milton - Montford Neighbors
Mount Clare Community
Council Inc.,
Pigtown Main Street
Plantation Park Heights
Urban Farm

Rebuild Johnston Square
Neighborhood Org
Station North Arts District, a
Program of Central Baltimore
Partnership
Stillmeadow Community
Fellowship
Superior Assisted Living LLC
The Sixth Branch

Baltimore County

Back River Foundation t/a
Maryland Waterways Foundation
Boy Scouts of America/Troop 706
Dundalk Renaissance
Irvine Nature Center
NeighborSpace of Baltimore
County Inc.
Northeast Towson Improvement
Association

Reisterstown Improvement
Association
Ridgely Manor Community
Association
Sussex Community
Association Inc.

Calvert County

All Saints Episcopal Church
American Chestnut Land
Trust Inc.

Carroll County

Downtown Sykesville
Connection Inc.
Town of Manchester

Cecil County

The High 5 Initiative Inc.



More information on the grants is available online at dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/grant_programs.aspx.

Bill James, who drafted the legislation that founded Maryland Environmental Trust, and **Margaret Rosch Jones**, former executive director of the Keep Maryland Beautiful program. These grants are awarded to schools, nonprofits, and other community organizations whose missions are centered upon directly engaging community members in environmental education and stewardship. These grants also support organizations that demonstrate active engagement as defenders of the environment by developing innovative solutions to local environmental problems.

- 61 Clean Up & Green Up Maryland awards totaling \$250,000. This grant was established in 2017 to help community groups and nonprofit organizations statewide with neighborhood beautification activities that include litter removal, greening activities, community education, and citizen stewardship statewide.
- 11 Janice Hollmann Grant awards totaling \$47,500, given to Maryland land trusts to increase capacity, support community programming and innovation and foster stronger, better connected land trusts. All grants



“Trees Not Trash,” a community initiative funded by the 2021 Keep Maryland Beautiful Clean Up Grant, focuses on beautifying city neighborhoods by planting street trees and removing litter within Sustainable Community Development areas while engaging the residents on the benefits of urban trees.

require a 100 percent match from the land trust of in-kind services and privately raised funds. The grant is given in memory of Janice Hollmann, who exemplified citizen leadership of local land trusts in Maryland.

Charles County

Beyond the Classroom Inc.
Charles County Government
Conservancy for Charles
County Inc.

Dorchester County

Commissioners of East
New Market

Frederick County

Brunswick Main Street
Catocin Land Trust
Downtown Frederick Partnership
Friends of Historic
Brunswick, Maryland
Town of Emmitsburg
Town of Middletown

Garrett County

Garrett County Government
Town of Oakland

Harford County

Harford Land Trust Inc.
Havre de Grace Alliance
Lower Susquehanna Heritage
Greenway

Howard County

EC250 Inc.
Ellicott City Partnership
Patapsco Heritage Greenway Inc.
The Community Ecology Institute

Kent County

Galena Tree & Park Committee

Montgomery County

Amula Foundation
Bethesda Green
Charles Koiner Center for Urban
Farming, Incorporated
Gaithersburg Parks, Arts, and
Recreation Corporation

Rock Creek Conservancy

Takoma Langley Crossroads
Development Authority Inc.
The Montgomery County Parks
Foundation

Prince George's County

Alice Ferguson Foundation
Cheverly Native Planting Project
City of Greenbelt - Department
of Public Works
Defensores de la Cuenca
Keep Prince George's County
Beautiful
Laurel Main Street Organization
Town of Edmonston
University of Maryland

St. Mary's County

Southern MD RC&D Board Inc.

Talbot County

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Washington County

Antietam-Conococheague
Watershed Alliance
Ladders to Leaders
Town of Smithsburg
Town of Williamsport

Wicomico County

Youth Environmental
Action Summit

Worcester County

Lower Shore Land Trust Inc.
Town of Berlin

Volunteer Program Update

A YEAR WITH VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, SHANNON TAYLOR

My getting matched with Maryland Environmental Trust through Volunteer Maryland to serve as MET's new AmeriCorps-funded Volunteer Coordinator was daunting and enlightening. I went from knowing little to nothing about land trusts to diving into the proverbial deep end and managing the Volunteer Program for one of the most effective land trusts in the country. MET runs like a well-oiled machine, constantly adding new easements to its portfolio, and monitoring the more than 1,100 easements already in its care. During my time as Volunteer Coordinator, I have gained invaluable knowledge on management of people and conservation easements, as well as my time.

My service year with MET has also provided countless valuable human connections. The volunteers that flock to serve with MET to monitor easements come from diverse backgrounds. The seasoned volunteers are amazing resources on how to improve the program. My monthly office hours and random phone calls with these volunteers always reminded me how much they really care about this program. They invest their time and energy into their volunteer positions, and I couldn't be more grateful for that. This March we trained 22 new volunteers, largely recruited from local colleges and universities. I'm excited to see what new energy is brought to the volunteer program with this young, diverse group of newcomers.

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT



SAVE
THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022 | CROWNSVILLE, MD

Our Appreciation Event will be in-person. We will provide an online option for anyone who cannot attend in person. Please mark your calendars to save the date.

**For more information about this event contact Shannon Taylor,
MET's Volunteer Coordinator, at shannon.taylor@maryland.gov**

Conservation Easements, Taxes and Other Benefits

Tax time spurs many questions from Maryland landowners on eligibility for income and property tax credits related to conservation easements. Property owners who donated a conservation easement or sold an easement in a bargain sale to the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) may be eligible for a preservation or conservation easement income tax credit described in MD Annotated Code Sec. 10-723. Owners of property encumbered by a Forest Conservation easement or Critical Area easement, i.e., easements that are required to be granted as a condition of approval of a subdivision, site plan, or building permit application, are not eligible for this credit.

Likewise, donors or bargain sellers of conservation easements to the entities named above and/or to other IRS-qualified land trusts may be eligible for federal income tax deductions, and if they choose not to apply for the state income tax credit, for the state income tax deduction as well. Check with your accountant or attorney to verify if this applies to you.

Donors of conservation easements and purchasers of land encumbered with donated easements are eligible for property tax credits applying to the unimproved portion of their property (where structures are absent) surrounding their one acre home site. This property tax credit applies for 15 years following the easement donation. In certain Maryland counties, the property tax credit may be

extended for easements that were donated (vs required through regulation). Forest Conservation and Critical Area easements resulting from regulatory requirements in the land development process do not confer property tax credits.

Property tax abatement (lower assessment) is possible for landowners who actively manage their forested land under a Forest Management Plan or Forest Stewardship Plan developed by a Maryland Licensed Forester and approved by the Maryland Forest Service. If interested, check with your local Maryland Forest Service office: dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/contacts.aspx.

Similarly, landowners who actively manage their agricultural lands through a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan that is developed and approved by their county Soil Conservation District (SCD) office may be eligible for agricultural tax abatement. Contact the local SCD office for more information: mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/pages/technical_assistance.aspx.

All lands subject to donated and required conservation easements provide environmental benefits to adjoining landowners. They provide habitat for native animals, plants and insects; they filter dust, carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air; they filter and absorb rainwater and other runoff from adjacent developed surfaces; and provide a visual and noise filter from activities on adjacent properties. These ecosystem services result regardless of origin of the conservation easement and are a public good that benefits all Marylanders.

New Faces at MET

CINDY HOFFMANN

Cindy Hoffmann is MET's Technology and Records Manager, responsible for formulating and implementing policies and procedures for managing digital and paper records, as well as managing our technology needs.



Before coming to MET Cindy worked for the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Laboratory Division for nearly 26 years. She managed the Central Receiving Unit which is responsible for receiving and tracking all evidence submitted to the laboratory for forensic analysis. She was also the Division's records manager which required overseeing thousands of analytical reports and other lab correspondence. She was an administrator of the LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) a comprehensive database system that records the lifecycle of each piece of evidence in the laboratory.

In her spare time Cindy enjoys gardening, particularly vegetables. She has, most recently, been researching and incorporating native plants into her gardens to attract pollinators. When not digging in the dirt she loves spending time at the beach with her family collecting seashells and making memories. Cindy is excited to bring her experience and knowledge to MET and looks forward to being a part of our team.

JOSETTE W. MARKLINE

Josette W. Markline joined MET in 2021 as Easement Stewardship Planner. Josette has a breadth of experience in the environmental realm from most recently working as a Compliance Associate for the Maryland Environmental Service, conducting environmental audits, to volunteering with the U.S. Peace Corps for an ecotourism group in the Dominican Republic. She also previously worked as a Park Ranger with the Maryland Park Service at Patapsco Valley and Seneca Creek State Parks.



Josette received a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Gettysburg College, and a master's degree in environmental management from University of Maryland Global Campus. She is passionate about conservation of green spaces and dreams of a Maryland that one day has one contiguous green corridor. She enjoys meeting with landowners and local land trust staff and looks forward to developing strong relationships for the continued success of MET's Stewardship Program and overall mission.

MICHAEL MINGUS

Michael Mingus joined MET in December of 2021 after working as a Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He also previously worked with the stream restoration firm, Environmental Quality Resources, and with the Maryland Conservation Corps at Tuckahoe State Park.



Michael received a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Dayton. He enjoys cycling, woodworking, hiking, and spending time with his family. He is very excited to begin meeting landowners and local land trust staff and looks forward to developing strong relationships for the continued success of MET's land conservation mission.

SHANNON TAYLOR

Shannon Taylor is serving at MET this year as our AmeriCorps-funded Volunteer Coordinator. She recently graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in Environmental Science and Policy. She has always had a passion for travel and the environment. As part of her undergraduate studies, Shannon spent three months in Costa Rica studying and exploring the natural world. She is very excited to be serving with MET and helping preserve such beautiful and naturally important land in Maryland.



NATHAN VOLKE

Nathan Volke was elected as a Trustee by the MET Board of Trustees at their September 2021 meeting.

Nathan is a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County. Professionally, he works as an attorney and practices family law in Annapolis. Since 2018, he has served on the Anne Arundel County Council representing District 3. He resides in Pasadena with his wife and two children.



Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers

Former MET Trustee Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers passed away on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Sarah had been an MET Trustee since 2016 and had stepped off the Board in May of 2021, following the completion of her second term. Sarah was a dedicated member of the MET Board.

She served on several of the Board's committees addressing new conservation easements, easement stewardship matters, land trust relations, outreach to the farming community, and board governance. She also served as the Board's secretary during her second term. She was a key advocate for MET's funding the creation of the new non-profit Forever Maryland, which serves the state's land trust community in an advocacy and educational role. "I feel very privileged to have known and worked with Sarah over the last four years," said Mary Burke, Chair of MET's Board. "She was an incredible colleague and friend who worked tirelessly to make Maryland a better place to live. We at MET will miss her joyful presence, deep wisdom and insight."

Sarah's professional career was dedicated to the conservation of natural resources and includes being the first woman ever to serve as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) during Governor Glendenning's Administration. "Dr. Taylor-Rogers was the first woman to head our department and her public service and dedication to conservation will long be remembered. We will benefit from her legacy for generations to come," said Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary of the DNR.

Sarah graduated from Thiel College in Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in political science. She then earned her master's degree in hydrology and water resources science and Ph.D. in water resources management from



Syracuse University. She was director of DNR's Coastal Zone Management Program from 1979-84, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission from 1984-94, and then assistant secretary for DNR's Resource Management Service until she was appointed DNR secretary in 1999.

Following her service at DNR, Sarah's career continued with a notable tenure at the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-ecology, including twice serving as its acting director. In the Center's memoriam to Sarah it published last year, assistant director Nancy Nunn stated, "Sarah was committed to protecting Maryland's natural resources and improving the lives of the state's citizens. She played a key role with Dr. Russ Brinsfield in shaping the Hughes Center's work and we are grateful to them for their vision. Personally, I will remember Sarah as a wonderful mentor, colleague, and friend."

Sarah's light and memory live on.

Portions of this article were reprinted courtesy of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology



FAREWELL AARON SIEGLE

Last summer MET's easement stewardship team welcomed Aaron Siegle as an intern. Aaron is a senior at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, Maryland. He has a strong interest in social studies and environmental issues and hopes to pursue both in the future.

Aaron worked on aerial imagery comparisons and GIS mapping of MET easement properties. Aaron completed over 30 aerial image reviews using "Lens", which is a state-of-the-art technology using high-definition aerial and satellite imagery for monitoring conservation easements.

We were thrilled to work with Aaron and to encourage his knowledge and passion for protecting our environment and helping to keep Maryland beautiful. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



MET's Staff Volunteers with Blue Water Baltimore

Last November, MET staff volunteered with Blue Water Baltimore, a non-profit leader working with Baltimore residents to restore water quality in the city's streams, rivers, and harbor. MET joined volunteers from Under Armour, Inc., the National Aquarium, and local citizens to plant street trees in Baltimore's Cherry Hill neighborhood. Seven teams of 3 volunteers each, planted 20 balled-and-burlapped trees along a neighborhood street.

With concern growing about climate change and sea level rise, improving the city's urban forest has emerged as one solution to a wide array of social and environmental challenges. Trees can make a big impact on creating healthier, happier, and more beautiful communities.

Trees help keep our waterways clean. Their canopies intercept and slow down rainfall. Their roots absorb and filter rushing stormwater that would otherwise create pollution problems in our waterways. Additionally, the shade that trees provide during the summer months helps to moderate temperatures. Every tree makes a difference. By planting and caring for trees in yards and public spaces, we can improve the health of our neighborhoods and environment.

Blue Water Baltimore's team will continue to prune, water, mulch and maintain these plantings over the next few years to ensure the trees long-term survival. MET staff enjoyed getting out and volunteering with Blue Water Baltimore. It was a wonderful fall day. The tree planting was well organized and fun for everyone.



Interested in volunteering with Blue Water Baltimore? Learn more here: bluewaterbaltimore.org

MET Hosts Land Trust Roundtables

Due to ongoing COVID concerns, MET held two virtual Land Trust Roundtable sessions in 2021. MET started hosting Roundtables on a regular basis in 2013. These events serve as forums for land trusts and other conservation partners to learn about and discuss topics and issues affecting conservation easements and easement stewardship. In 2021, MET's Land Trust Roundtables brought together 91 representatives from Maryland land trusts, governmental agencies, and other conservation partners.

2021 LAND TRUST ROUNDTABLES INCLUDED:

What's New? Updates to MET's Model Conservation Easement and Cooperative Agreement

The March 2021 Roundtable formally introduced MET's updated Model Deed of Easement, updated Cooperative Agreement, and new online Land Trust Toolbox.

Beer, Brides, Brawls and Brussel Sprouts – Part 2!

The November 2021 Roundtable featured an interactive panel discussion about limited commercial activities on protected lands, with each panelist providing experiences and policy from each of their respective organizations.



For more information on Land Trust Roundtables visit MET's event page at dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/roundtables.aspx

2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

February 7

May 2

June 6

September 12

November 7

All matters requiring Board approval are reviewed during the Board Meetings held at 4:00 pm in the third-floor conference room 3.218 at 100 Community Place in Crownsville, Maryland, unless noted otherwise. These are public meetings. Please contact MET if you plan to attend.

The Maryland Environmental Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees responsible for reviewing and voting on matters such as new easements to be granted to MET, and landowner requests that result in a significant change or impact to conservation attributes of an easement property. Activities on easements that might require MET 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; entering wetlands mitigation or restoration programs; changing use of property; making a boundary line adjustment; harvesting timber or construction of a new house.

If you plan to make changes to your property and are unsure whether notification or approval is required, contact MET's stewardship staff to help make that determination. It may take a minimum of 30 days for MET to review and approve the proposed activities. Please contact MET's stewardship program staff, Jon Chapman at 410-697-9519, or Josette Markline at 410-697-9529, to discuss your plans.

All requests should be made in writing at least three weeks prior to the scheduled board meeting. Thank you!



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Crownsville, MD 21032
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Email: met.info@maryland.gov
www.dnr.maryland.gov/met

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