

Land Marks

Protecting Land Forever

Planting Green

BY TOBY LLOYD, MET BOARD MEMBER

I am passionate about agriculture, and I love farms and the beautiful landscapes they provide. I watch with great interest what farmers are planting, following the same fields throughout the growing seasons. If my timing is right, I am lucky enough to see the finale of the season — trucks lining the fields and combines harvesting the crops from dawn into the night. Yes, that is exciting for me and it's my favorite time of year.

There's one farm, though, that's always looked just a little different to me from the rest. The fields are never plowed, a tall grass-like crop grows in winter and spring and in both wet and dry years, the corn and soybean crops consistently look dense and green. Curiosity finally got the better of me recently and so I stopped in to ask the farmer what was unique and special about his operation.

The farm is King's Grant Farm, located in Kent County, Maryland. Rich in history, it spans 800 acres, dating back to the 17th century, and as an added bonus is protected with a conservation easement. The farm is owned and operated by Tyler Johnson and his family. Tyler's son Webb manages the fieldwork. Located along the Chester River, the farm is a patchwork of cropland, waterways, woods, and riparian forest buffers.

I find Tyler in the farm's office where I quickly notice his desk is scattered with magazines about both production agriculture and conservation. I inquire about his distinctive farming methods and he responds, "it's planting green."

Unlike conventional crop production methods where farmers pass over their fields in the spring with tillage equipment to prepare the seedbed, Tyler plants his corn and soybean crops into a five foot tall living stand of cereal rye grass. This stand of rye is planted in the fall after the corn and soybean crops are harvested and is called a "cover crop." Cover crops are not planted to be harvested but are planted

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Webb Johnson inspects the root mass of the winter cover crop.



Director's Note

THEORY OF CHANGE AS WE APPROACH THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

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The Maryland General Assembly established Maryland Environmental Trust in 1967 as a free-standing agency with its own board of trustees. Its purpose was, and still is, twofold: to conserve and maintain Maryland's natural, agricultural, scenic, and cultural resources for future generations; and to inspire and engage the public to take responsibility for care of these natural resources that sustain all Marylanders.

Fifty (50) years later, all of us connected to the work of the Maryland Environmental Trust still aspire for land conservation to be acknowledged as a vital component of Maryland's future identity and prosperity.

This edition of *Land Marks* showcases the dedication of our efforts to this goal. Engaging students from St. Mary's College in hands on stewardship; connecting MET landowners to programs to help them restore forest cover on their land; supporting Baltimore's Charm City Land Trust as they expand opportunities for people to experience the healing power of nature; and welcoming new Board members from diverse backgrounds and experiences. These are a few examples of our evolving work. While we continue to safeguard new conservation easements across the state, these activities highlight the change in perspective and the power of relationships necessary for a relevant, vital land conservation movement in the future.

I am excited to share that our Board has recently adopted a new, five-year strategic vision plan. With this new plan, we are preparing for a transformation that acknowledges the diversity of our state and the

urgent need to connect all Marylanders to the benefits and inspiration of our beautiful lands and waterways. We want them to join the conservation movement. We want to engage them as good stewards. To bring this vision to reality calls for dramatically strengthening Maryland's land trust community. It calls for marshaling new financial and human resources. With this Plan we are committing ourselves to the innovative solutions that will be required.

Our successful work over 50 years, always with and through local land trusts, local governments, landowners and nonprofits, has prepared us to lead Maryland's conservation movement in this period of great challenge and opportunity. At our anniversary, we are moving toward a new vision of environmental sustainability that will protect our natural resources and enhance the lives of our citizens and generations to come.

We will be sharing more about our new plans in the coming year, and as we prepare to celebrate our 50th. Until then, thank you for your continuing support.

Warm Regards,

Bill Leahy II, Director

THE STATUTE TEXT (Article: Natural Resources)

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

Community Partnerships in Sustainable Agriculture

BY AUTUMN PHILLIPS-LEWIS, LAND MANAGER AT THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST



ACLT volunteers help distribute produce harvested from Double Oak Farm to families in need within our community.

Established in 1986, the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) in Calvert County, Maryland has always focused on connecting people with the land we protect. Recently, our volunteers found a new way to engage with members of our community. ACLT's Double Oak Farm is a volunteer-run sustainable agriculture program that is located on one of our preserved properties. In 2015, we started our Agriculture to Support the Community program by partnering with St. John Vianney Catholic Church's Food Pantry. Now, the majority of the naturally grown produce harvested from Double Oak Farm is donated to the food pantry and distributed to families in need within our community.

Double Oak Farm supplied a total of over 4,000 pounds of food to the St. John Vianney Food Pantry, with deliveries every Wednesday from May to December. The Pantry supplied food to an average of 110 to 120 families per week. According to Larry Donnelly, Chairman of the Food Pantry, our farm supplied vegetables to approximately 65 families per week. Approximately 74% of all food produced was donated. The remaining food was sold at the farmers' market to support production costs.

A recent report by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) concluded that, "Many Maryland families and individuals have insufficient access to food, especially fresh, nutritious produce." We feel that our partnership with St. John Vianney's Food Pantry is helping to address this

need in our own community by providing nutritious food grown right within the watershed where the Food Pantry is located. Representatives from SMADC attended a few of the distribution days and found that the food supplied by Double Oak Farm is loved by the families that receive it.

Double Oak Farm also contains an "EDGE" (Educational Demonstration Gardening Experience) garden where we teach others about sustainable farming. School groups and adults alike have visited the EDGE garden and learned about methods they can use to grow sustainable produce at their own homes. For more information about ACLT's community partnerships, please visit our website at acltweb.org.

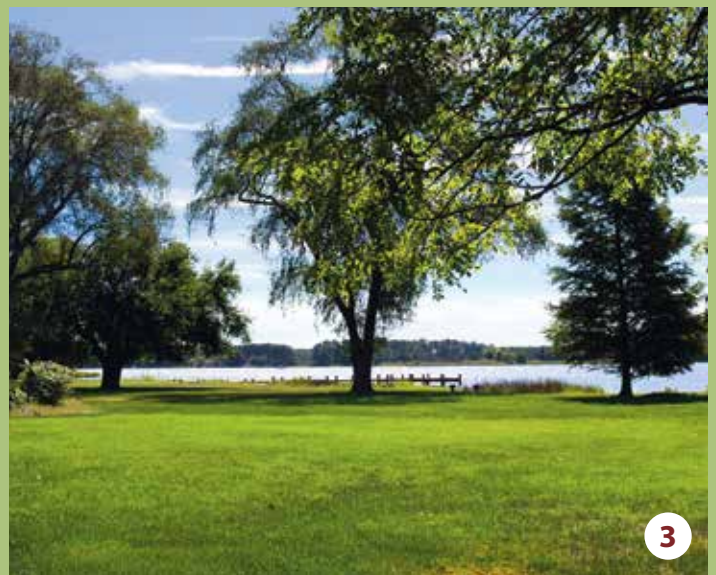


A school group visits Double Oak Farm.

PROTECTING LAND FOREVER

2016 Easements

Working collaboratively with landowners and land trust partners, MET staff in 2016 negotiated the donation of 11 conservation easements that protect approximately 786 acres of significant environmental, agricultural, scenic, and historic land. The new easements were accepted in six counties across the state. Four of the 11 easements are co-held with a nonprofit land trust. Additionally this year, three amendments of existing MET easements were completed that strengthen conservation provisions on close to 400 acres. Highlights by region are as follows.



EASTERN REGION

In Wicomico County, the City of Salisbury granted an easement to conserve an approximately 82 acre woodland tract that also protects the groundwater source of the city's drinking water supply. The property is open to the public and there is a network of natural surface trails available for hiking and biking. MET co-holds this easement with the Lower Shore Land Trust. *(Photo 1)*

In Somerset County, Kevin Barr donated an easement on 203 acres near the village of Oriole. The property is situated along the Manokin River and contains extensive waterfowl habitat. The property is also situated within the Manokin National Register Historic District, and its main residence, known as "Almodington," which dates from the 18th century, is the oldest building in the district. *(Photos 2 and 3)*

Also in Somerset County, MET and the Lower Shore Land Trust worked with Randy and Bobbie Stadler to conserve the land they love. The new easement donation protects over 150 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and meadows, along with nearly one mile of frontage along the Big Annessex River. *(Photos 4 and 5)*

High Meadow Farm, LLC, an existing MET easement landowner in Queen Anne's County, amended its easement to strengthen conservation provisions affecting this 212 acre property. The amendment ensures the farm will have only one single family home and will never be subdivided. *(Photo 6)*

CENTRAL-WESTERN REGION

In Baltimore County, Susan Glick donated an easement to MET on her 97 acre property near Parkton. The easement protects productive farmland, forest habitat, stream water quality, and scenic views along Jordan Sawmill Road. *(Photo 7)*

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2016 Easements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



Also in Baltimore County, Melissa and Daniel Sperau donated an easement on their 23 acre property along York Road just south of the Village of Hereford. The easement protects agricultural land and stream water quality, and offers scenic rural views from York Rd. (Photo 8)

MET accepted donations of three new easements from related families in Washington County that protect a combined 57 acres of land. Michael and Intawon Angela Maiorana, Linda Jean Jaehnigen, along with Celeste Maiorana and Matthew Leefer placed easements on each of their properties that are located along Park Hall Road near the county's eastern border. The properties are also adjacent to South Mountain State Park. The mostly forested properties provide important habitat and are within an Audubon designated Important Bird Area. At the same time the families protected an additional 58 acres of adjoining land through easements with the Maryland DNR's Rural Legacy Program, collectively protecting a total of 115 acres. (Photo 9)

Gloria and Stephen Cameron, MET easement landowners in Monkton, Baltimore County, strengthened easement protections on their 55 acre property. By amending their easement, which was originally donated to MET in 1993, the farm will now be limited to the existing primary residence, which is the historic house known as "Monkton View." The property will also never be subdivided. (Photo 10)



SOUTHERN REGION

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America conveyed two new easements to MET on forest land totaling 130 acres near Poolesville in western Montgomery County. The two properties, both woodland tracts (one containing 100 acres and one containing 30 acres) that were more recently acquired by the Chapter, adjoin its original farm property along West Willard Rd. The two easements are co-held with the local Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy. In addition, the Chapter amended its existing MET easement on 127 acres of the farm, which was originally conveyed in 1998. The amendment strengthens the forest conservation provisions of the easement. (Photo 11)

Howard County granted a conservation easement to MET on a 36 acre portion of the County's Belmont Manor and Historical Park near Elkridge. The easement helps preserve the scenic and historic rural character of the park, particularly the scenic views from the historic house within the park known as "Belmont Manor" which dates from the 18th century and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Howard County Recreation and Parks. (Photo 12)



Planting Green

(continued from page 1)

to prevent soil erosion during the winter months. Cover crops also take up excess nutrients left over from the previous crop and hold them over winter. When cover crops die, the nutrients are released for the new crop to be used. This farming method is called “zero-till” or “no-till” because the farmland is not being cultivated, and the method of planting into a living stand of cover crop has earned the name of planting green. In Maryland, approximately 500,000 acres of cover crops are growing this year alone!

“For the farm and the environment, it’s a win-win solution,” says Tyler. “Less passes across the fields benefit the farm’s bottom line. We save on fuel and don’t have the added expense of additional farm equipment. One pass with the planter and the crop



Winter cover crop

is planted.” Planting green results in better yields, as the living rye takes up excess soil moisture in the spring allowing crops to be planted earlier. During the growing season, it acts as a mulch that retains moisture and increases the soil’s fertility and microbial health. From an environmental standpoint, Tyler uses less herbicide as the mulch from the cereal rye makes it more difficult for weeds to grow, and the root structure of the grass reduces the chance of soil erosion caused by heavy rain.

The land stewardship by farmers continues to amaze me. It is fascinating to observe how science and technology help farmers use crops and farming methods to increase yields, yet decrease their impact on the environment at the same time. As I drive away down the farm lane, looking over Tyler’s fields once more, I ask myself who would have thought that simply planting cereal rye after crops are harvested would provide such diverse benefits.



CELEBRATING WITH A CONSERVATION LEGEND

Ms. Jean Hicks and stewardship manager, Jon Chapman, chat during an easement stewardship visit last fall. This past December marked the 40th anniversary of the conservation easement granted by Ms. Hicks and her husband, as well as Ms. Hicks’ 100th birthday celebration!



FREE TREES AND STREAM RESTORATION FOR YOUR EASEMENT

As an owner of land preserved with a conservation easement, you know the value of your trees and streams for providing clean air, clean water, and healthy habitats. Maryland Environmental Trust and the State Highway Administration are now offering free tree plantings and stream restoration projects on MET easement properties in eleven western shore counties.

Find out more about how you and your property can grow your commitment to our state’s environment through more trees and restored streams. Please contact John Turgeon, Easement Program Manager, at john.turgeon@maryland.gov, or Dave Minges, Volunteer Coordinator, at david.minges@maryland.gov.

As always, thank you for managing your property, caring for the easement, and considering this new way to grow land conservation in Maryland.

Maryland Land Conservation Conference
June 8, 2017



SAVE THE DATE

Pearlstone Center
Reisterstown, MD

MET Programs at Work

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL



KMB awards funding to community, volunteer, youth and environmental groups who engage in environmental education and community beautification projects

IN 2016,

10

COUNTIES AND BALTIMORE CITY

Maryland counties and Baltimore city were home to groups who received KMB grants



NONPROFITS AND SCHOOLS

13

nonprofits and schools received the Margaret Rosch Jones award or the Bill James Environmental grant



\$9,600

GRANTS

was awarded to schools and nonprofit groups engaged in environmental education and community beautification



RESTORATION, REVITALIAZTION, AND EDUCATION

Beekeeping, watershed education, stream restoration, urban revitalization, woodland habitat restoration, Monarch habitat, Chesapeake Bay education, and a sensory garden were a few of the 2016 award projects



KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL GRANTS ARE FUNDED BY MET AND BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.

To apply... visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/met



LAND TRUST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2016



\$27,000

in Hollmann grants awarded to eight local land trusts

37

local land trusts supported by MET



153

attended our annual conference and summit

2

roundtables were held for technical support for landowners and land trusts



1 Hughes award given for outstanding leadership and creative thinking

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



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

2016



133,924
acres preserved

1,080

conservation easements



581

easements co-held
(54% of portfolio)

286

landowners visited



35

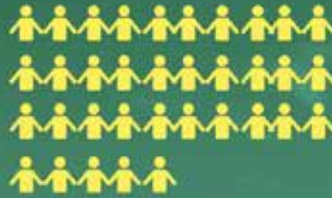
easement coholders

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



MET'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

2016



35

MET volunteers

181

easement field files completed



20,110

acres monitored

151

volunteer field monitoring reports reviewed and filed



450

hours donated

\$10,350

value of time donated



50th

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

MET

Land Steward Training

MET, PATUXENT TIDEWATER LAND TRUST, AND
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND JOIN IN
STUDENT LAND STEWARD TRAINING

Buffalo or Bison? That was one of the simpler questions considered by college students and volunteers at "Summerseat," a nonprofit historic farm in St. Mary's County. The group had finished a day of land conservation stewardship training, and they were enjoying feeding a small herd of the big bovines.

Last autumn, Dave Minges of the Maryland Environmental Trust, Frank Allen of Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT), and Dr. Barry Muchnick of St. Mary's College of Maryland partnered in a pilot project to bring land steward experience to students in the Keystone Seminar in Environmental Studies. In designing this new course, Dr. Muchnick wove hands-on activities into a syllabus of readings and discussions in the history and issues of land conservation. MET and PTLT provided background materials and training in easement monitoring.

The October training day began with an overview of land trusts and the role of conservation easements, followed by review and group discussions of the sample field file of Summerseat, which has a conservation easement held by MET and PTLT. Later, the group walked the property, noting the structures and features described in the file and making observations on the conservation values. In November, the students scheduled and monitored fifteen MET/PTLT easements in St. Mary's County. They met landowners, made notes and observations, took photos, and then submitted their reports. Volunteers from PTLT provided nearby and on-site guidance and assistance.

"Conserving private open land really clicks at the local level," notes Minges. "Barry and his students bring land conservation issues to the next generation of leaders, while Frank and PTLT expand local relationships." Dr. Muchnick sees the potential for the course to become a model for land conservation training that could be used by other colleges and universities.

And Buffalo vs. Bison? Buffalo is popular, but Bison is proper.



Buffalo/Bison bites banana



LAND TRUST ROUNDTABLES

Maryland Environmental Trust's Land Trust Roundtable series will discuss land trust stewardship challenges and a shared vision to address these challenges. This year's Land Trust Roundtables will tackle big issues around technology, volunteers, recordkeeping, monitoring and stewardship responsibilities, and work to build solutions. The kick-off meeting, on August 30, 2016, focused on developing common approaches and technologies for easement monitoring and recordkeeping. Participants were asked to confirm their largest stewardship challenges, discuss their organization's methods, limitations and partner expectations, and to identify strategies that support success.

The February Roundtable focused on addressing the challenge of monitoring, and exploring innovative stewardship solutions. Chesapeake Conservancy described a web-based mapping application that is being developed, in partnership with MET, to support easement monitoring efforts.

Land trust representatives are encouraged to attend these meetings and share their feedback with MET and partner land trusts.

The last meeting in this Roundtable series will take place on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. **Mark your calendars!**

Future Roundtable details, including RSVP information and meeting locations will be available soon. For more information please visit MET's events page.



Summerseat Session Participants – from left: Frank Sylvester, Ingrid Brofman, Susan Wilkerson, Andrew Mowbray, Max Taylor, Glenn Havens, Madison Jones, Joe Bavarro, Hunter Balog, Tyler Scott, Heather Aubrey, Nicholas Fugate, Margaret Rudy, Dr. Barry Muchnick, Frank Allen, Dave Minges

Working to Protect Forested Land

SCENIC RIVERS LAND TRUST WORKS WITH ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY AND CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST'S NEW GRANT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS THAT PROTECT FORESTED LAND

In September 2016, County Executive Steve Schuh announced an unprecedented \$1 million investment in forest protection for Anne Arundel County. Partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the county will use existing Forest Conservation Act funds for the grant program to provide landowners with cash incentives to put conservation easements on forested properties or properties appropriate for tree planting. Local land trusts and community organizations will connect landowners to this opportunity. The Forest Conservation Act funds come from fee-in-lieu payments from developers when trees must be cut down for development and cannot be replanted onsite. Scenic Rivers Land Trust (SRLT) was part of the team that developed the new initiative.

Scenic Rivers Land Trust has launched an intense outreach effort to locate landowners to apply for the

grants. SRLT will negotiate permanent conservation easements that will protect properties that are currently forested or appropriate for the planting of trees. The grants will fund a minimum of \$3,000 per acre for the landowner and will cover expenses for developing and implementing a forest management plan, surveying costs and easement drafting fees. In some cases, higher per acre payments can be negotiated based on a professional appraisal.

Along with protecting existing forests, the program will fund the planting of trees as long as there is an accompanying conservation easement that permanently protects the new forest.

Scenic Rivers Land Trust is thrilled to be a part of this first of its kind program in Maryland helping landowners protect forest land in Anne Arundel County.



John Hutson Memorial Fund

Director Bill Leahy announced that a memorial fund has been established by the Maryland Environmental Trust to honor John E. Hutson, who died on November 22, 2016 after a six year battle with cancer. Mr. Hutson's obituary appeared in the December 2, 2016 edition of the *Baltimore Sun*. John served 23 years at MET, in which time he was responsible for negotiating, drafting and processing conservation easements that conserved 43,500 acres of farm, forest, historic and open space land in Maryland.

Mr. Hutson was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking and biking around the region. Some of his happiest times were spent biking with his family and his extended bike family through land he had helped to preserve. He also loved birding, most recently recording the sighting of an Indigo Bunting along a trail in Tennessee.

His greatest devotion was to his family. He was a totally engaged father, playing with Barbie dolls, reading books, accompanying the elementary school band on the saxophone; structuring a life where he could be there for his family whenever he was needed. John is survived by his wife April of Franklin, Tennessee, daughter Erin Meola of Columbus, Ohio, sons Thomas Hutson of Baltimore and Aiden Hutson of Franklin, Tennessee.



A Hutson Memorial fund has been created and will be used to purchase a memorial bench and plaque to be installed at the trail head of a recently opened hiker-biker trail at the Bacon Ridge Natural Area in Anne Arundel County. Going forward the fund will be used to introduce and encourage college aged youth participation in land trust and land conservation activities. "John's legacy is more than acres of land preserved. He encouraged and guided 265 families in conserving their own family legacies, and he personally mentored dozens of interns, new MET and local land trust staff and volunteers in land trust work. This fund is being established both to honor John's career, and inspire new participants to carry on the good work of conserving Maryland and the country's open spaces," said MET Director Bill Leahy.

Donations to the Hutson Memorial fund may be made online through MET's website, www.dnr.maryland.gov/met, or by check c/o Tanya Mekeal at MET (100 Community Place, 3rd Floor, Crownsville, MD 21032). Please indicate "Hutson Memorial" when you donate.



Volunteer Update

THANKS FOR THE STEPS!

A Volunteer Land Steward goes through many steps, figuratively and literally. Reviewing the easement background. Scheduling the visit. Driving to and from the property. Meeting with the landowner or caretaker. Walking the landscape. Taking notes and photographs. Completing the field file report. Uploading numbered and labeled photos. Mailing the field file back to MET. Making time for the next assignment. The work is detailed, and sometimes hot, wet, cold, muddy or buggy.

Land Trusts across the country face the ever-growing challenge of monitoring more conservation easements with very limited resources. MET is responsible for monitoring and preserving more than 1,080 easements covering close to 135,000 acres. Staff, board members, volunteers, and local land trusts that co-hold easements all take part in the effort.

In 2016, MET volunteers worked on 181 easement field files covering 20,110 acres. The 35 Volunteer Land Stewards and Office Volunteers donated 450 hours of service valued at \$10,350 — not including mileage and postage. This effort throughout Maryland helps preserve the natural vistas of farms, pastures, open land, and forests — and their inherent conservation values.

Veteran volunteers Andrew Brignole, David Godfrey, David Hobson, and Stuart Stainman have been patient as we change to DropBox for sharing easement photographs. Thanks to Andrew Mowbray for sharing his experience as a volunteer with the students of the Environmental Studies Keystone Seminar at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Our best wishes and thanks to Melissa Tully for her monitoring work.

TO ALL THE MET VOLUNTEERS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND SERVICE!

Ronnie Adams	Owen Curran	Brittany McBride
Lauren Atwood	Carrie Dike	Cassandra Melton
Derek Baumgardner	Sondra & Steve Dorsey	Andrew Mowbray
Jason Boothe	Christine Dzingala	Werner & Elizabeth Schumann
Andrew Brignole	Vivienne & Kevin Gautrey	Kevin Smith
Ken Brown	David Godfrey	Stuart Stainman
Ann Burchard	Joe Hasuly	Melissa Tully
Christine Cadigan	David Hobson	Charles Wells
Susan Cohen	David & Nancy Kieffer	Lynn Wilkinson
	Toby Lloyd	

2017 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 6:30 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 the 2017 MET Board meetings:

March 6 | April 3 | May 1 | June 5 |
September 11 | October 2 | November 6 |
December 4

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!

Spring sprouts in lavender on a Kent County easement.

New Faces at MET

MET is pleased to welcome four new members to its Board of Trustees.



GARY S. BURNETT

Gary S. Burnett has 29 years of experience with the Maryland State Park Service, holding positions ranging from park ranger trainee to major to chief of mission support and sustainability, as well as director of support services for the Maryland State Park Service. Mr. Burnett recently retired from the Maryland Park Service and accepted a position as the North Region Operations Manager for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery Parks.

Mr. Burnett has previously served on many boards, including the Snow Hill Chamber of Commerce, DNR Black Officers Association, North East Chamber of Commerce, Cecil County Tourism Board and many more. He is the founder and president of the Friends of Carrie Murray Nature Center. "I'm looking forward to joining MET's Board to help preserve land for future generations," said Mr. Burnett.



RICHARD D'AMATO

Richard D'Amato has extensive experience in the military, government and private sectors. "I'm proud to serve on MET's Board and look forward to assisting in preserving Maryland's lands in perpetuity," said Mr. D'Amato.

Mr. D'Amato began his career in the U.S. Navy and served for 25 years, retiring as captain. He transitioned to appointed roles in the U.S. Senate where he held numerous high-level positions.

Mr. D'Amato was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1998 before holding a position as vice president for Synergics Energy, LLC. He has served twice as the commissioner and chairman for the U.S. and China Economic and Security Review Commission. He holds a B.A. with honors from Cornell University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law School. Mr. D'Amato is a member of the Bars of Maryland, the District of Columbia and Colorado.



ROYDEN POWELL, III

Royden Powell, III has served the public for 25 years in state, local and municipal governments, in addition to over 20 years of agricultural experience as a grain farmer in Queen Anne's County. "I'm looking forward to joining MET's Board as it moves forward to conserve more of Maryland's natural and productive landscapes," said Powell.

After graduating from the University of Virginia, Mr. Powell served as a supervisor for the Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District for 11 years before beginning work with the Maryland Department of Agriculture where he serves as the chief of resource conservation and assistant secretary of the office of resource conservation. He entered municipal government in 2004 and, in 2006, returned to the Maryland Department of Agriculture as assistant secretary for the office of resource conservation until his retirement in 2007.



SARAH J. TAYLOR-ROGERS, PHD

Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers, PhD has extensive experience in natural resources management. She began her career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and eventually became the director for the Maryland coastal zone management program for the Department of Natural Resources. "Landowners, through their generous donation of easements, ... are the key to retaining Maryland's natural resources. To be able to serve on [this] Board ... is an honor and privilege," said Dr. Taylor-Rogers.

Taylor-Rogers helped create and administer Maryland's first program to protect the Chesapeake Bay and was the first woman to be named Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. Since 2005, Dr. Taylor-Rogers has worked as assistant director for the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.



MONA DEPOITIERS RUDNICKI *Bookkeeper*

Mona DePoitiers Rudnicki joined MET's staff in August 2016 as our bookkeeper. She holds a Certificate of Accounting from the University of Baltimore and a BA in Business Administration from Loyola University Maryland. Mona's interests are: traveling, environmental sustainability, gardening, sports, education and cooking. She resides in Baltimore with her family and is a life long Marylander.

Thank You to Our Recent Contributors

(August 1, 2016 - February 1, 2017)

Every effort has been made to properly acknowledge all contributors. Please contact Wendy Stringfellow at 410-697-9520 if a listing is in error.

Conservation Champion \$10,000+

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

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

Mr. Perry Bolton
David D. Smith

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

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HELP MET TO PROMOTE LAND CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACROSS MARYLAND!

The Maryland Environmental Trust depends on the generous contributions of individuals, companies, and foundations to fulfill our long-term mission. MET plays a unique role as a statewide organization dedicated to strengthening land conservation and stewardship by working with landowners, local land trusts, and other local and regional partners. Your gift ensures we are able to staff and implement our most critical programs.

Unrestricted gifts from our supporters allow us to implement programs and activities that help increase opportunities for land conservation, strengthen capacity of other groups, and inspire stewardship in local communities. This includes our annual conference and land conservation round tables held throughout the year.

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Like the thousands of landowners who have made the decision to permanently safeguard their land, you can make Maryland Environmental Trust a part of your legacy. By including MET in your estate plans, you are ensuring we will have the funds necessary to meet the long-term challenge of safeguarding easement permanence and ensuring a strong land conservation movement endures in Maryland.

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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 of over 100,000 acres of conserved lands. Costs associated with regular on-site monitoring, volunteer and land trust training, landowner engagement and support, land restoration, and developing new technologies and approaches to facilitate regular stewardship must be covered through the generous support of our contributors.

This photo: In Somerset County, MET helped to protect more than 150 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and meadows, along with nearly one mile of frontage along the Big Annemessex River. Read more on page 5.