

Land Marks

Spears' Conservation Easement Protects Generations of Memories

By Nika Ouellette

Early afternoon sunlight streams through an open window and lights up the weathered face of Gene Spear Sr. as he crunches on a cracker and looks across the fields he's been farming for over 70 years. He reaches out to a potted lily on the windowsill admiring the new growth before his wife, Marynan, gently chides him for touching it. They smile sweetly at each other from across the table. The two have been together for 64 years and as Gene says this, youthfulness flutters across his face and his eyes light up, as if just thinking of the woman he's shared his life and this farm with can transcend a lifetime of a body's aging. They sit at their kitchen table and share stories of their family and their farm's history. Marynan occasionally rolling her eyes at something her husband says and Gene aging backwards every time a smile leaps to his lips while recalling a tale of the early days of the farm in Vienna, MD.

Gene's father bought the 443 acre farm in Dorchester County in 1942 when Gene was just 13 years old, in order to keep Gene and his late brother, Bob, out of trouble. The boys were given tremendous responsibility, and instead of spending summers lounging in the Nanticoke River adjacent to Vienna, they worked on the farm. Of his siblings, he's the only one that remains, an announcement he makes with equal parts sadness and pride. Gene and Marynan grew up here in Vienna. While riding around downtown in Gene's maroon Ford pickup truck, he casually points out building after building (and business after business) that he



The Spear Family, Thanksgiving 2014.

and Bob have owned through the years all the while waving at townsfolk walking around. He pauses momentarily outside a quaint home on Race Street. It belongs to his daughter now, but that's where he grew up. The lawn is freshly mowed today and the front porch looks like the perfect spot to sip iced tea and watch the stars come out on warm summer evenings. I sneak a peek at Gene's face surveying his childhood home, perhaps a tad wistful, if only for a moment, as memories flood his mind. I wonder which is the most prominent of them all. As the American flag
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Director's Note

by Bill Leahy, MET Director

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It is my great honor to introduce myself to you as the next Director of the Maryland Environmental Trust, in this, my first, Director's Note. Effective at the beginning of September, I will be officially on board and looking forward to the opportunity to meet many of you, our partners and supporters, to learn more about the institution.

A little over one year ago, I made a personal decision to resign my position as Executive Director of the Big Sur Land Trust, in Monterey, California, in order to return to my home state of Maryland with my wife and teenage daughter. After 20 years in California and three years in Missouri, it has been great to return to the Mid-Atlantic region, closer to my parents, extended family, and old friends.

During my 22 years in land conservation, I have had the privilege to work with many dedicated, diverse, and smart professionals who share a common goal — to build a more enduring, culturally relevant, and dynamic land conservation movement. For the past year I have had the opportunity to consult to other national and local organizations working, in their own unique ways, to accomplish this work. It has given me an even greater appreciation for the breadth of ideas and strategies others are pursuing to connect people to the land and build healthier communities for the future. It is thrilling to me personally to be able to bring my experience, and the perspectives of many of my heroes in the field, into service on behalf of the many wonderful places that I experienced as a child and young adult, and which helped attract me to this work.

I am stepping into this at an exciting time for the organization. MET's board and staff have a strong desire to build on a long track record of success (coming up on 50 years!) partnering with landowners, local land trusts, conservation groups, and public officials of the State of Maryland to establish almost 1,100 conservation easements encompassing over 130,000 acres — a remarkable private land stewardship legacy. Further, MET's long standing commitment to strengthening local, community based land trusts through its conference and educational programs is increasingly vital work.

It is my strong belief that the long term challenge facing land conservation groups today is the ability to activate public interest in land stewardship through greater focus and attention on connecting people to our shared story of connection to the land. This is difficult work, but one MET can play a significant role in because of its past good work.

MET's established purpose is "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... Through educational and other means, the Trust shall encourage and motivate the populace of the State and others to do so and promote continuing interest in these matters."

Such a broad, yet compelling statement of purpose is challenging and highly motivational for me. At its core, it is a promise to activate the entire citizenry of the State of Maryland to be partners in conservation. I look forward to working with MET's board and staff as we hold up our end of that promise.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to learning from many of you what you believe is necessary and desirable work for MET as we close in on 50 years.

Warm Regards,





A sign along the entrance to Kilby Cream on a bright summer day.

We All Scream for Kilby Cream!

By Nika Ouellette

“Keeps the kids in, flies out,” Bill Kilby says as a wry smile unfurls at the corner of his mouth from beneath a thick salt and pepper beard. He’s referencing the wind curtain above the doorway to the Kilby Cream Scoop Shop in Cecil County. Phyllis Kilby sits to his left and periodically arises to hug a familiar patron, check in with her employees behind the counter, or smile at a young face with ice cream dribbling down his/her chin. Community is big here, and mom and pop are never far from their mom and pop shop. The Kilbys have also played a large role in land conservation. They’ve farmed everywhere from North Carolina to Pennsylvania before settling in Cecil County in 1961. Since then, the world grew up around them while they continued working the land. Realizing the importance of open space, Bill and Phyllis became involved in land trusts. They put their first conservation easement on their land in 2005, and have since added two more easements, ensuring the land and the surrounding open space will be protected forever.

With approximately 40 employees, most of them family, the Kilbys have their hands full between running the farm and the business. Bill manages the farm and oversees the operations while Phyllis and one of their daughters, Megan, takes care of the ice cream, milk, events and other business matters. While the Kilbys have been dairying for over 100 years, the ice cream business just turned 10 in July and was commemorated with the community and ice cream lovers of all ages. One thing they all agree on, the

Kilbys make darn good ice cream.

They farm the old fashioned way. The herd consists of just around 800 Jersey and Holstein cows — their milk yields a richer and creamier product. The cows are primarily grass fed (and supplemented with corn and grain) and milked daily. The milk is bottled and delivered to stores and doorsteps, bringing back a long forgotten tradition, the Kilby’s promise “from moo to you

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Phyllis Kilby stands next to the Moo Mobile.

Maryland Environmental Trust Hosts 2015 Maryland Land Conservation Conference

MET hosted the 15th Annual Maryland Land Conservation Conference on April 30 – May 1, at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD. More than 160 people from over 90 organizations from across the Chesapeake Bay region were represented at the conference. The annual conference is the only state-wide land conservation conference and training workshop in Maryland.

This year's conference was a two-day event featuring educational workshops, peer-to-peer networking opportunities, and an evening reception on April 30th. Stephanie Meeks, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, provided the keynote address. Ms. Meeks spoke on the importance of land conservation and historic preservation communities working together to conserve important open spaces and historic places that transform our communities and landscapes from places where we live into places that we love.

The conference brought together representatives of land trusts, conservation and historic preservation organizations, government agencies and students for a unique opportunity to share their experiences, learn about priority issues and exchange new ideas on land conservation in our region. Participants engaged in two days of trainings and lively discussions on



MET Chairman, James Constable, welcomes attendees to the 2015 Maryland Land Conservation Conference.

a variety of worthy topics, including: historical and cultural resources; fundraising; urban and community conservation; outreach and innovative partnerships; emerging issues and the conservation of large landscapes and working lands.

During the evening reception on April 30th, MET honored the 2015 recipient of the Aileen Hughes Award. The recipient for the Aileen Hughes Award was Barbara Hopkins, Executive Director of NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc., for outstanding leadership and creative thinking in the pursuit of open space within Baltimore County's Urban Rural Demarcation Line. This award is given in the memory of Aileen Hughes, a leader in Maryland's conservation movement, to support local land trust activities, including land conservation, outreach and stewardship efforts.

MET also recognized the 2015 Dillon Award recipient, Estate of Elizabeth F. Obenshain. In 2014, the Estate of Elizabeth F. Obenshain, as directed in her will, donated a 94 acre easement to MET and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, forever protecting woodland along Herring Creek and a scenic byway (MD Route 213) in Cecil County. This award is given to a landowner who exhibits outstanding conservation in honor of the spirit and legacy of the Dillon sisters of Garrett County, who donated a conservation easement and then bequeathed their entire property to MET in 1984.

Six local land trusts (Baltimore Green Space, Conservancy for Charles County, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Harford Land Trust, Lower Shore Land Trust and Scenic Rivers Land Trust)



Connie Lieder, MET Grant Committee Chair, presents the Aileen Hughes Award to Eric Rockel, board member of NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc., who accepted on behalf of its Executive Director, Barbara Hopkins.



Sandy Hertz, Deputy Director of SHA's Office of Environmental Design and Michelle Grafton, MET Land Trust Coordinator present the Hollmann Grants to the 2015 recipients. Michelle Grafton; Charlie Conklin, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy; Miriam Avins, Baltimore Green Space; Hal Delaplaine, Conservancy for Charles County; Richard Post, Harford Land Trust; Victoria Bauer, Lower Shore Land Trust; Sarah Knebel, Scenic Rivers Land Trust; and Sandy Hertz.

were presented with the 2015 Janice Hollmann Grants. These groups will each receive a portion of the \$27,000 for conservation, outreach and stewardship programs. The Maryland State Highway Administration provides matching funds for these grants annually to individuals and organizations to support their conservation, outreach and stewardship programs, or to honor outstanding conservation and/or environmental efforts. The award is named in memory of Janice Hollmann who co-founded the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, and served on the Severn River Commission.

Conference partners and sponsors included: *Abell Foundation; American Forest Foundation; Chesapeake Conservancy and National Parks Service - Chesapeake Bay Office; Civil War Trust; The Conservation Fund; Ecotone, Inc.; Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust; Insight Management Consulting; Land Trust Alliance; Maryland Historical Trust; O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP; S. H. Muller & Associates, LLC; The Trust for Public Land; and Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP.*



Stephanie Meeks, President and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, delivers the keynote address.

Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Awarded



Youghiogheny River Watershed Association's Brook Trout population assessment with Northern Garrett High School students and MD DNR.

In May 2015, MET awarded \$9,600 in grants to schools and nonprofit groups engaged in environmental education and community beautification projects through the Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) program. These grants are partially funded by the Maryland State Highway Administration and are given annually.

THE MARGARET ROSCH JONES AWARD

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award is given in honor of the first executive director of the KMB Program. These grants are awarded to an ongoing project or activity that has demonstrated success in solving an environmental issue, whether local or statewide. The award recognizes organizations that have been actively educating people in their community about litter prevention, community beautification, or eliminating or reducing the causes of a local community problem.

This year's recipients of the Margaret Rosch Jones Award are:

- **Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society** for funding lumber and plant materials for a mosquito repellent garden, martin houses and bat boxes; and for student education.
- **Girl Scout Troop 110** for planting native trees and flowering bushes in the plot located in the Thornleigh Community.
- **It's All About The Kids Education Organization, Inc.** for cleanup of Edmonson Park.
- **Land & Cultural Preservation Fund, Inc.** for collecting data around Frederick County using the Water Reporter app, and to track and follow-up on their progress to protect streams from nutrient and sediment pollution.
- **Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council** for signage about litter, leash, and pet waste laws; dog poop bag distribution stations; animal resistant trash cans; and recycling bins.

- **Youghiogheny River Watershed Association** for stream monitoring in Maryland.

THE BILL JAMES ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT

The Bill James Environmental Grant is given in honor of Senator Bill James who drafted legislation creating MET and incorporated the activities of the Governor's Committee to KMB.

This year's Bill James Environmental Grant recipients are:

- **Annapolis High School Environmental Club** for the planning and renovation of a school garden to support environmental education.



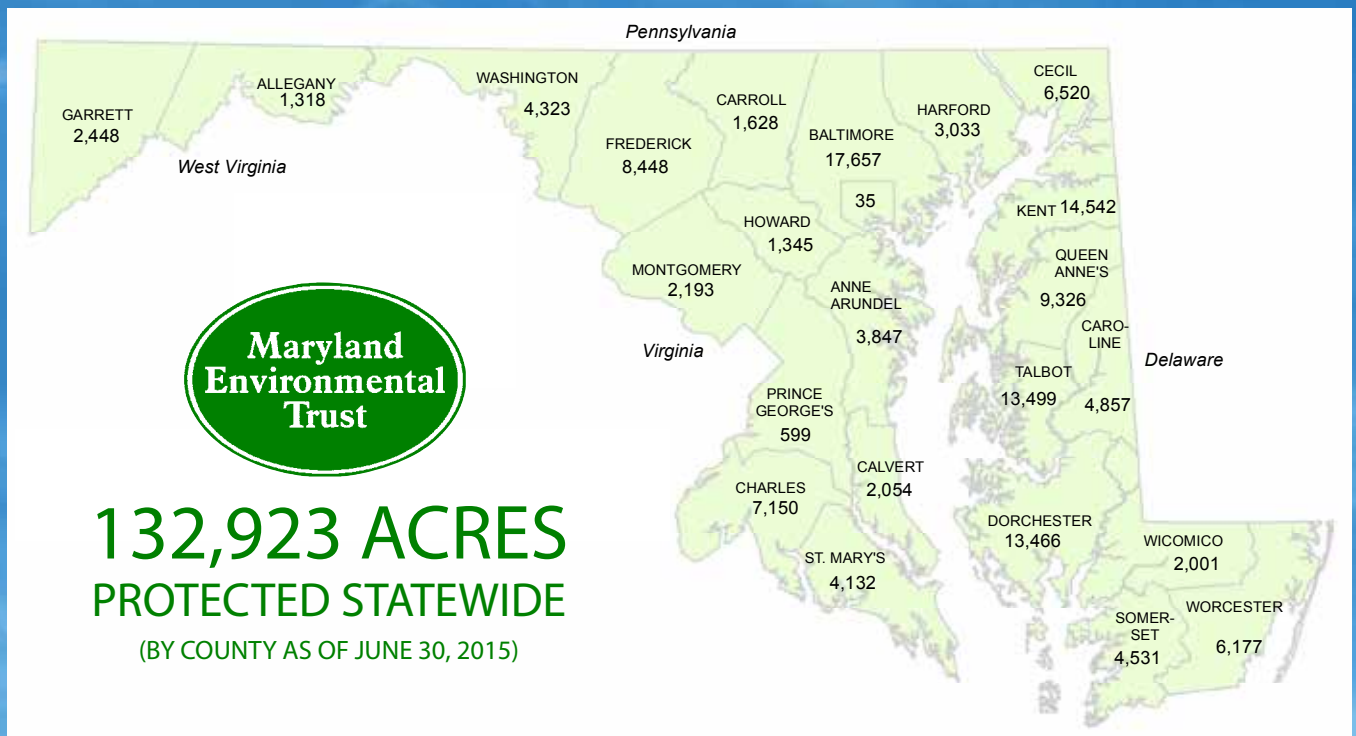
Maryland's native trout – the Brook Trout.

- **Christ Church Kent Island** for funding plants, mulch, pots, etc. for a memorial butterfly garden.
- **Friends of Tuckahoe & Martinak State Parks** for hands-on projects like planting forest and streamside buffers on “Bay Awareness Days.”
- **George Washington Carver Elementary School** for planting tables, stools, seeds, soil, replacement sheeting, and “natural heating materials” (gravel, clay pots and cinder blocks).
- **Mattaponi Elementary** for: 1) installation of a rain garden and 2) building a pavilion and picnic tables.
- **NASA Goddard Child Development Center** for purchasing plants for their garden.
- **North County High School Greenhouse Club** for purchasing fertilizer, seeds, tiller, shovels, spades, gloves, wheelbarrow; setting up a summer irrigation system; and rain barrels.
- **Southwest Baltimore Charter School** for educational workshops to help keep the neighborhood clean.
- **SustainaFest** for local high schoolers to photograph and monitor local dams before they are removed in 2016.
- **UMCP Gemstone Team CATTAILS** to research cattail as a means of cleaning up oil spills along the Chesapeake Bay.

Many of these grants encourage youth and students to develop a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for their natural world, stimulate a better understanding of environmental issues and help reduce or resolve an environmental problem.

For more information about the KMB grant program, please visit MET’s website or contact Wendy Stringfellow at wendy.stringfellow@maryland.gov. The deadline for applications is March 31.

ACRES PERMANENTLY PROTECTED BY MET



Seasonal Notes from the Field

My index finger curled stiffly around a MET pen and I was having trouble gaining dexterity enough to record what I had just photographed. Frustrated, I dropped the pen and blew into my hand in an attempt to warm it up. I glanced up to the Baltimore County farm I was in the process of monitoring and squinted across the snow covered landscape. While hovering just over 10 degrees today, in a few months this place would be green, lush and bustling with activity. On this day, however, I craved the smell of sunscreen and the feeling of being caked with dried sweat. Just as the thought crossed my mind, a gust of wind sliced through several layers of clothes and encouraged me to keep moving, lest I remain frozen where I stand.

More than a few weeks after that frigid day in the field, my heavy duty galoshes planted themselves firmly on a saturated gravel driveway tucked back in Howard County. Pellets of rain penetrated my cotton shirt as I fumbled around the backseat for my raincoat. Securing it around me I stretched while breathing in deeply what wonders the fresh rainfall had stirred the woods. Beneath my boots stretched a green carpet dotted with small yellow flowers, reminiscent of bright stars in a night sky. Spring was wet and unpredictable, but life was just beginning for plants and creatures alike here.

Summertime took me to the Eastern Shore where I found my shirt saturated with sweat as I slogged through buggy wetlands

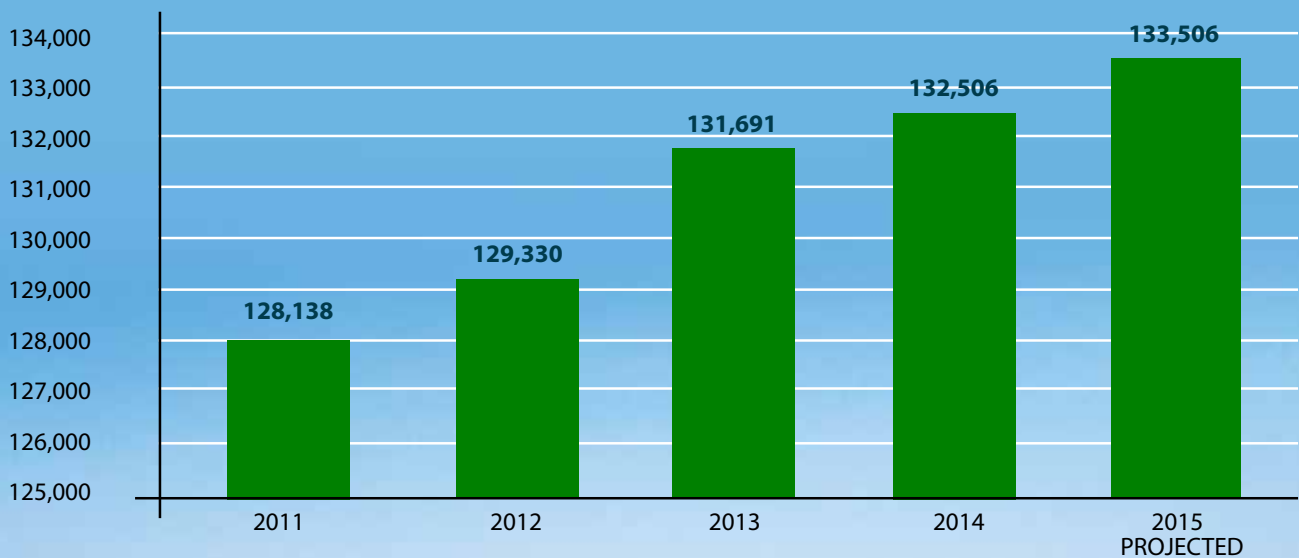


Nika Ouellette, MET's Easement Steward, shares experiences of monitoring in the field.

in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore, pausing to snap a picture or two of turtles hidden beneath dense grass and making sure I was not melting away in the hot summer sun.

Being in the field, I get to see tremendous properties and beautiful scenery pretty regularly and gain more of an appreciation for the state of Maryland. But most importantly, I get to meet incredible and kind people who value land conservation just as much as I do. And that is my favorite part.

CUMULATIVE ACRES CURRENTLY PROTECTED



Spears' Conservation *(continued from page 1)*

hanging from the railing waves us along, he removes a calloused paw of a hand from the steering wheel and gestures with a curved index finger to fields behind the modest house, telling of his father's and grandfather's roles in the local cannery business and what remains of the buildings. The Spear name is stamped on every corner of Vienna, as integral to the place as the place is to them; the true mark of exceptional stewardship.

Back at the house, Marynan tells me that Gene didn't want to move to the farm initially. He'd been working the land for years and there was a perfectly good house waiting to be made into a home, but it took the birth of their son (three daughters would follow in due course) and some additional coaxing from Marynan to urge him into the house for good. That was 61 years ago and the inside of the home displays times gone by. Every inch of the walls is covered with pictures, postcards, old advertisements, signs announcing "Nana's Cupcakes are Sprinkled with Love," drawings, clocks, newspaper clippings and several generations of memories. It is a warm, welcoming and lived-in home, exactly how a great-grandparents' house should feel. As we finish up lunch — hot beef stew, cheese and crackers, and ice cold cherry coke to "warsh" it down — Marynan pulls a picture off the kitchen mantel and sets it on the table. No fewer than forty people are smiling up at me; tiny tots with big goofy grins and adults of varying ages — all color coordinated in reds and whites with jeans—stand in front of a massive red barn. Last Thanksgiving, she tells me. Four generations are represented



Gene and Marynan Spear at their grandson's wedding.

here; each of these faces is associated with the Spear name either through blood or marriage. It is a tremendous sight. The only two sitting in the photo, front and center, are Gene and Marynan. I look up at Marynan's proud smiling face from my seat at her kitchen table and tell her it's a beautiful family while I wonder how I'll ever tell this story of two incredibly genuine and loving people and not have it sound like a fictitious embellishment. Proud of his home, his town and above all, his family, Gene showed them off that afternoon in an incredibly humble manner.

Gene Spear has spent 86 years on this earth so far, and has already created quite a legacy. His name doesn't pop up if you Google him, he hasn't traveled the world, nor is his name etched in monumental

awards. He's spent the majority of his life tucked off the beaten path on a small road in a small town. But he's proud of what he's built with Marynan over the last 64 years. Shuffling around the kitchen between pulling pots and pans out of mustard yellow paneled cabinets and slicing cheese on the worn countertop, he occasionally raises his eyes from his task and gazes at Marynan sitting by the window. It began with just the two of them decades ago, and after all this time his adoration is still evident in the way his face softens upon meeting hers. We had spoken all day long about farming and his land, but intricately sprinkled throughout the conversation was a peppering of the people he cared for most in this world, his life's work, and a tremendous legacy to leave.



The fields from Steele Neck Road looking into the Spear Property.


Kilby Cream *(continued from page 3)*

in 24 to 36 hours” and delivery is via a traditional milk truck, the “Moo Mobile,” a homage to the animal that began and sustains Kilby Cream.

Bill and Phyllis are celebrating 50 years together next year bringing truth to the adage “the family that farms together stays together.” Their kids and grandkids all have a part to play in their family owned and run farm. Wednesday nights at Kilby Cream are a particularly fun sight. Crave Eatery food truck rolls in and serves up hot food to patrons. Parents lounge on picnic tables while kids romp around the farm themed jungle gym or gingerly approach the animal pen and gaze at the ponies just beyond the fence before sprinting barefoot in the grass back to mom for another lick of a freshly scooped cone. Community is big here. And summer evenings at Kilby Cream will always look just like this. The little girl spinning in circles, eyes to the sky with blue cookie monster ice cream smeared from her forehead down to her pink summer dress can, one day, bring her children here and watch them enjoy the sweet treat that has brought families and communities together for generations past and generations to come.




Bill Kilby and Jon Chapman share stories under a Holstein patterned ceiling in the Kilby Cream Scoop Shop.



Maryland Environmental Trust



Protecting Land Forever

48 Years of Protection



MET created as the State's first land protection program & Keep Maryland Beautiful Program transferred to MET

1967

Margaret Rosch Jones Bill James

MET accepts its first easement


1972

Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Program established

1986

Local Land Trust Assistance Program established

1988



Dillon Award established

2002



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 5-6, 2016

The 2016 Maryland Land Conservation Conference will take place on Thursday, May 5, through Friday, May 6, 2016 at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. For more information, please visit <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/met/events.asp>.

IN KIND DONATIONS

- Ronnie Adams
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Progress



132,00 acres permanently protected

100,000 acres protected & Volunteer Program established

Janice Hollmann Grants established

Aileen Hughes Award established

1,000 easements protected
Largest conservation easement donated 2,894 acres

2003

2004

2006

2009

2015

MET's Volunteer Program Provides a Gratifying Experience

MET's Volunteer Program received high marks from both volunteers and landowners alike. Volunteers were asked to complete surveys regarding MET's volunteer program. Twenty-four volunteers completed the survey, resulting in the following collective scores (out of 100).

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Training content | 91 |
| Organization | 98 |
| Communication..... | 96 |
| Guidance & Feedback..... | 99 |
| Field files arrangement | 87 |
| SmugMug on-line photo site..... | 81 |
| Usefulness of volunteer manual..... | 74 |
| Work load | 90 |
| Sense of reward..... | 97 |

After each volunteer visit, landowners were mailed a survey to provide feedback regarding their visit with the volunteer. Seventy-three landowners returned the survey, collectively scoring MET 96 points (out of 100) in all three of the following areas: communications prior to visit; volunteer's promptness, courtesy and attitude; and volunteer's professionalism.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Jon Chapman at Jon.Chapman@maryland.gov.

“The best part of volunteering for MET is visiting new areas of Maryland and meeting the easement owners.”

- Land Steward Volunteer, Carrie Dike



MET eased properties abound with historic residences like this one in Queen Anne's County, photographed by Dave Godfrey.



Volunteer Jason Booth photographed this historic spring house in Baltimore County.

“The best part of volunteering for MET is visiting MET properties and appreciating the beauty and natural environment of Maryland.”

- Anonymous Land Steward Volunteer



Husband and wife monitoring team, the Dillons, encountered a friendly horse on their visit to a protected property in Baltimore County.



As a MET volunteer you are likely to find yourself in a peaceful woodland like this one in Baltimore County, discovered by Anne Burchard.

“Great place to volunteer! Everyone is super nice and helpful. I had a great time here and would definitely recommend this place to anyone looking for a rewarding volunteer experience!”

- Office Volunteer, Gina Im



Volunteer Andrew Brignole photographed this historic barn while monitoring in Talbot County.



When volunteering for MET you find yourself in many wonderful landscapes. This one was stumbled upon by Toby Lloyd in Howard County.



Left: Volunter Dave Godfrey discovers and photographs wildlife every time he visits a protected property. This photo was taken in Queen Anne’s County.

“The volunteer work preparation is very well organized and communication is easy and thorough. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer for several years for MET.” - Land Steward Volunteer, Werner Schumann



Water, water everywhere! Dave of Queen Anne’s County can tell you all about the bounty of water resources in Maryland.

New Faces at MET



New Board Member, Addie Eckardt

Senator **Addie C. Eckardt** replaced Senator Roy Dyson as the representative of the president of the Maryland Senate on MET's Board of Trustees. Senator Eckardt was first elected to Maryland Legislature in 1994. She currently serves in the Senate of Maryland representing District 37 (Dorchester, Caroline, Talbot and Wicomico Counties). Senator Eckardt is a member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, on the Health and Human Services subcommittee, a member of the Joint Committees on AELR, Audit, Pensions, and Fair Practices and Personnel Oversight. She is married to Dick Eckardt of Cambridge and has three married sons and nine grandchildren: The Eckardts are active members of Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge.



New Staff Member, Rama Dilip

Rama Dilip joined the staff in July as the Office Manager. Rama moved from India in 2005. She comes to us from Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, where she worked for ten years, first as an Office Secretary and then as an Administrative Specialist.

Rama holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Delhi University, India, and has taken classes at Anne Arundel Community College. In her free time, Rama loves to listen to music, read books and explore the outdoors. She now resides in Arnold with her family.

Meet Our Conservation Easement Planners

Met MET's team of Conservation Easement Planners. Megan Benjamin, Ann Gutierrez Carlson, and John Turgeon work closely with landowners across Maryland soliciting, negotiating, drafting and completing conservation easement donations. In December, Ann and Megan will mark their 8th year with MET. They started at MET on the same day in 2007 and collectively have worked with more than 99 landowners to protect 12,150 acres. John joined the team in July 2014 as both Conservation Easement Program Manager and Southern Region Conservation Easement Planner.

Megan, a native of Garrett County and current resident of Baltimore County, couldn't be more pleased to serve the Western and Central Regions of the state. Megan lives in Timonium with her husband, children and two lively dogs. One of her favorite stops is South Mountain Creamery in Frederick County, a protected property and source of delicious ice cream.

Ann, who serves as MET's Eastern Region Easement Planner, enjoys exploring the Eastern Shore and meeting landowners. One of her favorite spots is Public Landing in Worcester County. Surrounded by protected land, Public Landing is perfect for a picnic lunch and for dipping your toes in Chincoteague Bay. Ann lives in Annapolis with her husband. She loves being outdoors and leading an after-school program at a local community center.

John's love of Maryland brought him back to the state after ten years at the Willistown Conservation Trust, a nonprofit land trust in Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. He resides in Annapolis and enjoys fishing and kayaking. A favorite kayaking area for John is Mallows Bay of the Potomac River in Charles County.



MET's Conservation Easement Planners, Ann Gutierrez Carlson, John Turgeon and Megan Benjamin.

Thank You to Our Recent Contributors

(February 1, 2015 - August 1, 2015)

Every effort has been made to properly acknowledge all contributors. Please contact Wendy Stringfellow at 410-514-7905 if a listing is in error.

Conservation Champion

\$10,000+

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

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The Trust for Public Land

Environmental Benefactor

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Jennifer Stanley

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\$100-\$499

Bill and Phyllis Kilby

Open Space Guardian

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Friend

\$10 - \$99

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Gates
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MET staff left to right: Jon Chapman, Megan Benjamin, Director Bill Leahy, Ann Gutierrez Carlson, John Turgeon, Nika Ouellette, Joan Lally, Michelle Grafton, Wendy Stringfellow, and Rama Dilip.

2015-2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Trustees (BOT) meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of January, July and August. The board meetings begin at 6:30 pm and are held at 100 Community Place, First Floor, Conference Room A, 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 MET Board meetings in 2015-2016.

**2015: September 14 | October 5
November 2 | December 7**

**2016: February 1 | March 7 | April 4 | May 2
June 6 | September 12 | October 3
November 7 | December 5**

Easements sometimes require advance notification and/or written approval for certain activities. Please see MET's website for information and application. If you are unsure whether notification or approval is required, contact MET stewardship staff to help make that determination. Activities that might require approval or notification include:

- Constructing any new buildings or structures
- Renovating or enlarging existing structures
- Conveying property (provide contact information on new owner)
- Subdividing property
- Recording 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 410-514-7904 to discuss your plans. All requests should be made in writing at least three weeks prior to the scheduled board meeting. Thank you!



Protecting Land Forever

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

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Leave a Legacy

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

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

Help Build the MET Stewardship Fund!

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

Please consider a **tax-deductible** contribution to MET this year. With your support, we can continue to protect Maryland's diverse natural, scenic, and historic resources. Thank you for your support!

*Get up close to Maryland's farms and
the people who steward these lands.
This farm in Washington County was
photographed by an MET volunteer.*