

Land Marks

Protecting Land Forever

Hedging Their Best:

**THE JORGENSEN FAMILY FUNDS THE BUSINESS, SCIENCE,
AND ECOLOGY OF ORGANIC BEEF AT HEDGEAPPLE FARM**

American log cabin heritage, Danish animal husbandry neatness, scientific production management, and environmental land and water preservation, these genetic strands braid together in the quadruple helix of Hedgeapple Farm, a scenic and efficient beef cattle mini-spread tucked away on the Buckeystown Pike just south of sprawling Frederick. Three hundred head of Black Angus graze on the same number of fenced, pastured acres, rounded out with 100 acres of hay, a private high school, and a corporate English muffin bakery as neighbors.

“Here at Hedgeapple, we like to show how combining sometimes seemingly separate parts can create a profitable, sustainable, and high value-added beef operation that sells direct to local tables,” muses John S. Jorgensen, Sr., President of the Jorgensen Family Foundation. His father acquired the farm in 1956, and the foundation donated a now 20 year-old conservation easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust in 1997.

Dr. Scott M. Barao, Ph.D., Executive Director of the foundation, shares and helps shape the Jorgensen vision based on his experience in the scientific management of beef cattle at the University of Maryland’s research farm
Continued on page 8



Jack Jorgensen, Doug Selby, John and Barbara Jorgensen, and Scott Barao head the Hedgeapple herd.



A Black Angus bright August browse.



Director's Note



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Just yesterday I returned (with mild regret!) from a memorable family vacation rambling in the wild country and along the dramatic coast of Maine. Like my return here to Maryland, after decades on the west coast, it was exciting for me to reconnect with another geography of my youth. In Maine, as a young person, I had the privilege of many summers of uninterrupted immersion into nature where I first learned the value of connection to nature. It was especially thrilling to share this experience with my wife and daughter, two dyed in the wool Californians, on their first visit to New England. I hope that many of you have also had the opportunity this summer to get out of doors to recharge and renew your spirits, as we have.

In reflecting on our trip, I am again reminded of how the land and water teaches us that everything is connected in nature; that we are all connected, to each other and to the source of life that created us. Watching lobsterman offloading their day's haul, paddling with my family through the wilderness, witnessing young adults leave the technology behind to enjoy a summer off the grid — in nature, and purchasing wild blueberries from roadside stands were just a few of the tangible ways we experienced connection. Each represent different reasons why land conservation is such a powerful concept and why we are passionate about our work.

We know connection work is important from the thousands of studies which support this — that show how time in nature increases IQ's, reduces stress and improves overall health and well being; how, with nature as a guide, farmers are creating more resilient and healthy farmland; how when a few concerned citizens get involved in parks and open space in their community, it leads to less crime and a more engaged and thoughtful citizenry; how land protection can create durable, low tech networks of green infrastructure that heal the Chesapeake Bay and local communities; and how preserving places also preserves stories of people and their unique relationship to the land.

At our annual conference in June, we heard from diverse organizations and individuals doing this "next century conservation work" of connection. What these groups have in common, and from which traditional land trusts and conservation groups can draw inspiration, is a willingness to adopt broader thinking, and a willingness to explore new relationships that, perhaps, some of us have been afraid to or unwilling to consider.

This work of building connections, not just amongst ourselves, but also to others who are already pioneering innovative, and heroic community conservation work, will ensure that we are fully activating Maryland's citizens' innate sense of stewardship and care for community.

Our new Strategic Vision Plan calls for a doubling down on our role as a statewide backbone entity for protecting open space and to inspire broadly a sense of stewardship in our citizens. The plan requires that we gather people, land trusts, and partners from every part of our state and beyond to hold discussions, work together, form new bonds, and galvanize regional efforts that lead to action plans and diverse strategies aimed at strengthening our movement.

The plan calls for a bold new effort to increase funding and support for land trusts and our partners to accomplish this collective work. Working with you, our colleagues and partners in conservation, as well as new voices and perspectives, we look to the emergence of a 21st Century land trust movement that spans the rural — urban divide; that is both inclusive, and diverse; and, which leverages our community connections, networks, and relationships to increase the resources and technical support that can help ensure a strong, statewide land trust community for the long haul.

I hope that the stories we share in this and future newsletters will help to inspire in each of us a desire to innovate, encourage networking and collaboration, and spark that sense of connectedness we aspire to see in the world.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Bill

Bill Leahy II, Director

Connie Lieder: 27 Years of Service

MARY BURKE, ONE OF MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST'S NEWEST TRUSTEES, SAT DOWN WITH CONNIE LIEDER WHO IS ENDING HER TENURE AS A TRUSTEE OF MET AFTER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE. HERE IS WHAT CONNIE HAS TO SAY.

MARY: Connie, you started as a trustee in 1989. The world was a different place then. Can you describe the changes you have seen with Maryland Environmental Trust and land conservation in Maryland?

CONNIE: The Maryland Environmental Trust is an extraordinary organization that has grown from *Keep Maryland Beautiful* in 1967 to one of the outstanding land trusts in the U.S. It has protected land, promoted conservation, supported local land trusts and educated numerous people on the work of land trusts. The Trust has become the cornerstone of Maryland's conservation community. When I started with the Trust in 1989 it had protected 30,752 acres, today it has protected over 134,000 acres.

In the almost 40 years since I became head of planning for the state of Maryland, I have seen the knowledge, programs and funding for the environment grow exponentially. The Trust's areas of involvement have grown as has our knowledge of managing the atmosphere, run-off, agricultural lands and forests.

The amount of development has surged. What gives me hope is the ever-increasing number of properties permanently conserved.

MARY: What do you see as threats to conservation?

CONNIE: The biggest threat I see is capacity to meet the challenges and opportunities that are out there today and in the future.

For example, there is an increased focus on urban easements, programs and education. This is good and important work, but it takes time and resources. Maryland Environmental Trust must have the resources to support both large landscapes land preservation and small urban easements that are vital to local communities.

Sustainability of conserved land is always a threat. There is a need for conserved land to remain economically viable. This can



As MET's Keep Maryland Beautiful grants committee chair, Connie presented the Aileen Hughes award in 2014.

often mean finding or facilitating new uses. Some potential uses like wind farms, solar panels and even cell towers must be considered very carefully as they can threaten the easement's purposes.

MARY: What are the opportunities you see?

CONNIE: The increased awareness about the environment creates an opportunity to educate the public about the Trust, conservation and land trusts. The tremendous response to our *Keep Maryland Beautiful* grants for schools and nonprofit organizations indicates a rapidly growing interest in the environment that the Trust should continue to support.

MARY: What is the key to the Trust's continued success?

CONNIE: Maryland Environmental Trust has 50 years of success, growth, expansion, development and excellent reputation nationally and in the state. It has a very fine record of working with landowners and local land trusts.

One of its successes has been in the persons of its Trustees. They, themselves, are educated in the field, conscientious and dedicated to conserving Maryland's special places. Keeping excellent Trustees is key to the strength of this organization.

MARY: On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and those in Maryland who value conservation, thank you for your service Connie.

Since 1989, Connie Lieder has been a Trustee of the Maryland Environmental Trust, serving as chair for eight years, and having served for decades on Maryland Environmental Trust's Keep Maryland Beautiful grants committee. She ended her service on the Board in 2017. Connie also served as Maryland's Secretary of State Planning for ten years, 1979-1989, under two governors, only the second woman ever in a state cabinet position. She directed the state's capital budget, physical, environmental and resource planning, including planning for the Chesapeake Bay and smart growth. She resides in Bolton Hill in Baltimore City and owns a farm in Carroll County, which she placed under easement with the Trust.



Connie Lieder, George Wills, Ellie Kelly and Nancy Coudon at the Government House in 2014

Farming with Satellites

BY TOBY LLOYD, MET BOARD MEMBER

Global Positioning System, commonly known as GPS, has fast become a part of everyone's life. We use GPS to navigate around traffic, get directions to a new restaurant and even to find our cell phone when it's lost! I was thinking to myself, farmers are so technologically advanced these days, they must be using the technology too. To investigate this theory, I visited Eric Schrader, a farmer and fellow easement landowner in Queen Anne's County. Boy did I ever learn something from this visit!



Eric, a farmer and conservation easement donor.

I met Eric early one July morning in a recently harvested wheat field where he was busy planting soybeans. As the big John Deere tractor rolled to a stop to pick me up, my jaw dropped in awe of its huge size and commanding presence. Clearly, Eric is leveraging the latest and greatest in farming technology, and I knew I was at the right place for my curiosity to be satiated.

"Efficiency! It's all about efficiency," were the first words out of Eric as we started planting down the field. "In using GPS, I can save on fuel, seed and inputs by planting and applying only the exact amounts needed to grow my crop."

GPS in a tractor works by collecting a series of satellite signals using a satellite dome to "fix" a position. A farmer can tell exactly where he and his equipment are located in a field by viewing a computer screen located inside the tractor. Not only does the computer keep track of where the equipment is located, but it also tracks the area of the field that the equipment has covered. This is possible by pre-programming the width of the equipment before planting, harvesting or applying fertilizer, all of which utilizes GPS technology. In fact, the equipment is



Eric out on the farm.



Top and above: Eric's modern GPS driven planter.

so "smart" that if a portion of the equipment travels over previously covered ground, that portion of the planter or fertilizer applicator will turn off so as not to double apply seed, fertilizer or chemicals.

With my eyes fixed on the computer screen watching the technology at work, Eric also highlighted for me how using GPS helps the Bay as well. "Since GPS eliminates overlapping applications of fertilizer (nitrogen and phosphorus) and chemicals, I apply less than before I was using the technology." This is important to Eric and fellow farmers; helping to feed people while also doing their part to improve the environment.

In what seemed like no time at all, the 50 acre field was planted and Eric started folding up the planter to head to the next field. My visit confirmed to me that GPS technology is here to stay in farming. Improving a farmer's efficiency *and* helping the environment at the same time ... it appears GPS is a win for everyone!

Maryland Environmental Trust

EASEMENT PROGRAM

FY 2017

12 conservation easements donated

1,465 acres conserved

5 OF THE 12 easements co-held with nonprofit land trusts

8 counties

3 amendments of existing MET easements strengthen protections on **314** acres

Baltimore County, Howard County, Kent County, Montgomery County, Queen Anne's County, Somerset County, Washington County, Wicomico County



122 acres average size of a MET easement

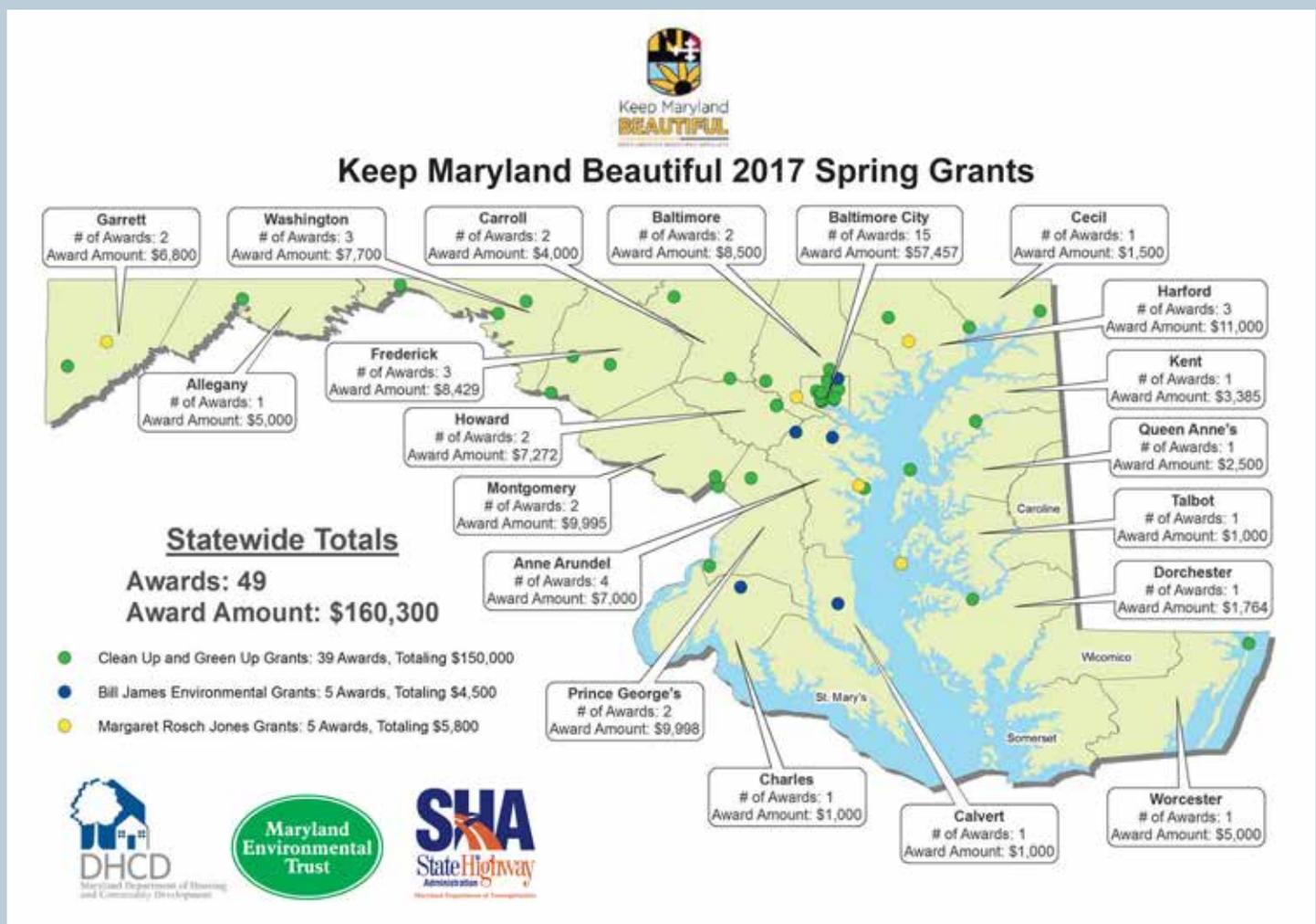
For **50** years MET has been safeguarding Maryland's vital lands and waters.

Keep Maryland Beautiful Program Awards \$160,300 in Grants!

In May of 2017, MET awarded **49 grants** totaling \$160,300 to schools, nonprofit groups and municipalities engaged in environmental education, community clean-up and beautification projects through the **Keep Maryland Beautiful** program. These grants, which are given annually, are funded by MET, the **Department of Housing and Community Development** and the **Maryland State Highway Administration**. “I’m excited to see the Keep Maryland Beautiful program expand from \$10,000 to over \$150,000 in grant awards this year. We recognize a huge need to support communities, nonprofits and organizations promote stewardship of our open spaces, environmental education and neighborhood greening activities,” said MET Director Bill Leahy. “Our new plans call for expanding the impact of Keep Maryland Beautiful, MET’s oldest program, as a crucial component of the quality of life of our communities. We could not accomplish this without the support of our partners, the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Department of Housing and Community Development.”



2017 KMB Clean Up & Green Up MD grant recipient Parks & People Foundation.



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 Keep Maryland Beautiful.

The new **Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant** was established to help community groups and nonprofit organizations statewide with neighborhood beautification activities that include litter removal, greening activities, community education, and citizen stewardship statewide.

The **Margaret Rosch Jones Award** is given in honor of the first executive director of the Keep Maryland Beautiful 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.

2017 KMB grants are as follows:

- Five Bill James grants totaling \$4,500
- 39 Clean Up & Green Up Maryland grants totaling \$150,000
- Five Margaret R. Jones grants totaling \$5,800

Nineteen counties and Baltimore City were home to groups who received the KMB grants. Many of these grants focus on stewardship and developing and supporting communities, families, youth and students who are taking personal responsibility for the health of their communities, protecting nature in their back yards, and seeking a better understanding of environmental issues so that they may help reduce or resolve environmental challenges.

For more information about the KMB grant program, please visit MET's website or contact KMB.dnr@maryland.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL IS MET'S OLDEST PROGRAM

Maryland Environmental Trust

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL

2017

The **Bill James Environmental Grants** are for environmental education projects by school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other nonprofit youth groups.

The **Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant** focuses on urban communities and/or watersheds within urbanized areas with an emphasis on litter removal and community greening initiatives.

The **Margaret Rosch Jones Grants** are for nonprofit groups or communities that show continuing plans for a project that has already demonstrated a basic understanding and resolution of an environmental issue.

\$160,300 in grants distributed

KMB
Investing in tomorrow's stewards

19 Counties and Baltimore City were home to groups who received KMB grants

49 Nonprofits, organizations, schools and municipalities received KMB grants in 2017

3 partners sponsored KMB funding

DHCD Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Maryland Environmental Trust

SHA State Highway Administration

Hedgeapple Farm *(continued from page 1)*

on the Wye River. Together they form a tag team of persuasive personalities and data-driven decisions. Barao adds, “Hedgeapple may be unique in the U.S. and possibly the world — a suburban working beef operation that welcomes the public while testing new ideas and educating the next generations of beef growers. We sell the beef, but we give freely of our wealth of experience.”

Together with Jack (John Jr.) Jorgensen, Barbara Jorgensen, Doug Selby, and resident farm manager Jay Fulmer, the Hedgeapple leadership, staff and associates also share their supply-side lessons from the school of hard knocks. Barao said, “For a while, we tried the traditional market path of Black Angus growers — wholesaling the best beef in the world first to high-end restaurants and then regional retail grocery chains. But between domestic pricing pressure and large-operation overseas competition, we decided to keep and increase the value we add with our true grass-fed organic beef, and build local relationships — local families, local farmers, and local processors.” Jorgensen adds with a wry smile, “We are a nonprofit, but we are for covering our costs and making enough to plow back into the foundation and our education outreach of trainings, seminars, and shared research.”

In a cook’s (or perhaps griller’s) tour on a steamer of an August morning, Barao points out the seamless world of sustainable resources and sustainable beef. “We steward a mile of rich bottomland Monocacy River bank with a fenced, wide riparian buffer. Our herd waters at fixed and portable tanks that also prevent worn cattle paths and erosion. They love the sweet grasses here in the spring, and in the autumn the higher ground hay we grow uphill across the road.” A sleek cud-chewing cattle cluster cools contently in the shade, offering hefty mute testimony to this seasonal regimen.



Ray Fulmer and Scott Barao present choice custom-cut Hedgeapple beef.

Think cows, naturally think country. But local here also means local city people. Barao explains that “For a long time, we had to ship our cattle to Pennsylvania for custom carcass processing that met our high standards — but that cost more time, transport, fuel, stress, and pollution. Bad for business, bad for the environment. We decided to help establish a processor off Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore, and we are now their largest customer, supporting good paying jobs with a future. They provide us with beautifully wrapped prime cuts that we proudly showcase in our restored and repurposed log cabin, where shoppers can select their favorite entrees while learning how to prepare new recipes. It’s a win for many Marylanders.”

All of this adds up to growing beef, growing recognition and reputation. In 2010, Hedgeapple became the first “Certified Agricultural Conservation Steward” farm in Frederick County. Beef growers and their organizations know of and seek out the Foundation’s advice and experience. Bill Leahy sensed this success in 2015. “I had just started as Director of the Maryland Environmental Trust, and went out to learn how to monitor an MET easement at Hedgeapple. John and Scott’s enthusiasm and dedication makes them a great example of how Marylanders are preserving the open space of Maryland for many old and new best reasons. We are proud in MET’s 50th Anniversary Year to highlight and celebrate the people and the domestic and wild plants and animals of Hedgeapple.”

So what is a hedgeapple? Neither horse apple nor cow pie, it’s the common name of the fruit of the Osage Orange, a sturdy North American native of a small region of Texas and Oklahoma. Somewhere between a large bush and a small tree, Osage Orange came East in the mid-1800s as a green fence (before barbed wire) to separate pasture from field, similar to the hedgerows of Europe. The fruit, like a walnut, resembles a large, pebbly-skinned green apple. Hedgeapple — the name of the farm reflects the philosophy. Natural, beautiful, sustainable, useful, beneficial, practical, economical. And that just makes common *cattle* sense.



Sun-sweetened silage sights scenic southerly Sugarloaf.

EASEMENT PLANNERS REGIONAL MAP



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Land Conservation Conference

Maryland Environmental Trust hosted the 2017 Maryland Land Conservation Conference on June 8 at the Pearlstone Conference Center in Reisterstown, MD. The annual conference was attended by 120 people from 64 organizations from across the Chesapeake Bay region. The annual land conservation conference is the only statewide event of its kind in Maryland and provides an opportunity to unite land trusts, other conservation and environmental organizations, governmental agencies, and other partners who support land protection.

This year's conference theme was Strengthening Land Trusts for the Next Century. Attendees enjoyed education workshops, a series of lightning talks, and peer-to-peer networking opportunities. The morning lightning talks featured a variety of presenters who spoke about the challenges and opportunities facing land trusts and conservation partners in the 21st century.

Conference sponsors and supporters included: *Appalachian Trail Conservancy; Brown Advisory; Chesapeake Conservancy; Civil War Trust; The Conservation Fund; Department of Natural Resources; GreenTrust Alliance Inc.; GreenVest; Harry R.*



Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.; L'Aiglon Foundation; Land Trust Alliance; Maryland Historical Trust; The Nature Conservancy; O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP; S. H. Muller & Associates, LLC; The Trust for Public Land; and Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP.

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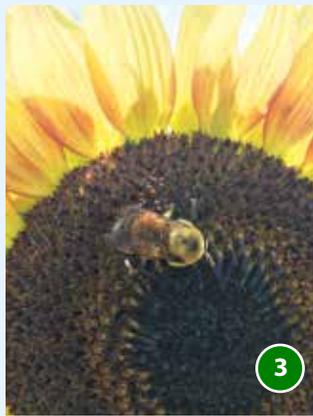


Growing Up Communities Through Urban Agriculture

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL GRANT RECIPIENT WHITELOCK COMMUNITY FARM IS DOING INSPIRING WORK IN CHARM CITY



1



3



5



2



4

BY: KAT PARDOE, MET INTERN

1. Wykeem Franklin (left) and Isabel Antreasian work hard to keep Whitelock Community Farm beautiful and productive.
2. Tomatoes are starting to ripen at Whitelock Community Farm!
3. All of the growing at Whitelock Community Farm is done organically to help protect bees and other crucial pollinators from harmful chemicals.
4. Whitelock Community Farm is helping to shape the local community into a vibrant area.
5. Rows of sweet potatoes (left) and basil (center and right) flank one of Whitelock's hoop houses. Hoop houses help extend growing seasons so that fresh produce is available for longer periods.

When was the last time you felt gratitude for the privilege of going grocery shopping? For many, grocery shopping is a mundane, perhaps even cumbersome task. Yet, for millions of Americans who live in food deserts, grocery shopping is an inaccessible luxury. In Baltimore City alone, one in four residents are located in a food desert. Those who reside in food deserts are approximately one mile from their nearest grocery store and are forced to rely on convenience stores, specializing in the sale of heavily processed foods, for their sustenance.

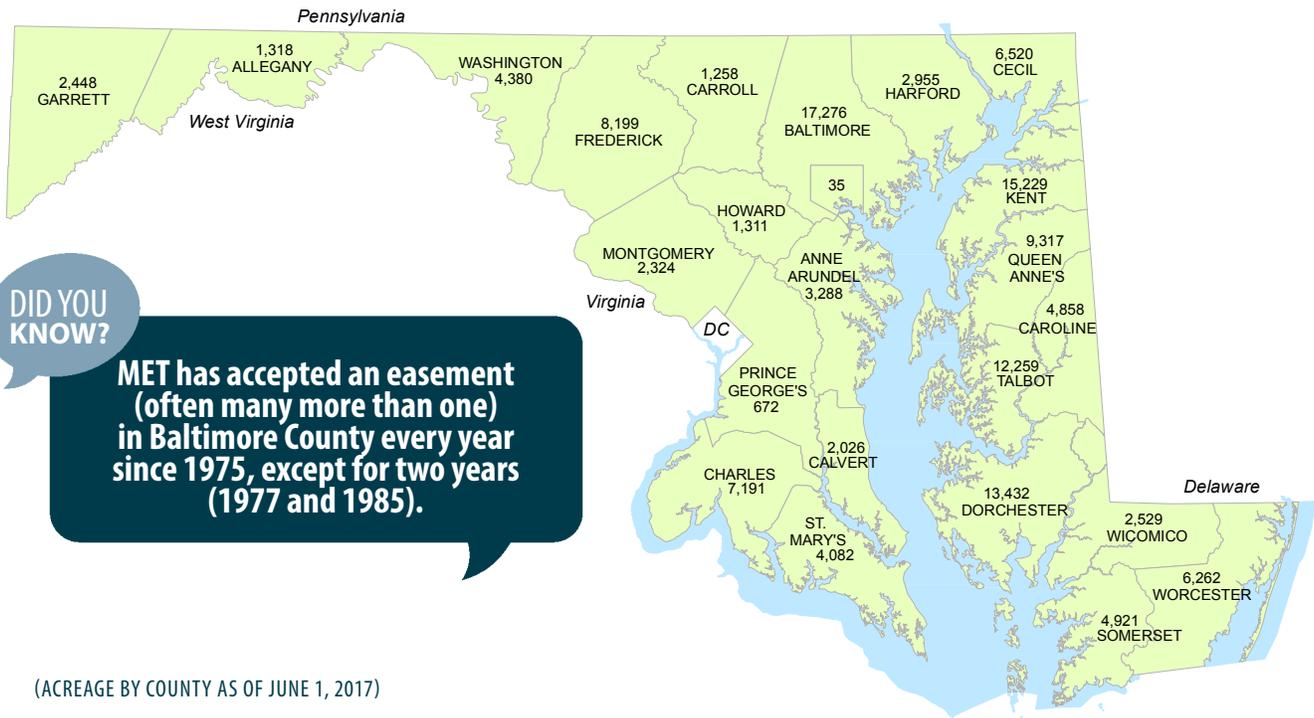
Nestled in the heart of Historic Reservoir Hill, one of Baltimore's many food deserts, Whitelock Community Farm is combating the challenges faced by their neighborhood through urban agriculture. Over its seven years of operation, the farm has turned two abandoned lots in the neighborhood into productive growing spaces, and has a third location on private property. Whitelock produces a vast array of fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs throughout the year which are sold at their farmstand on location. The nonprofit farm is providing an invaluable service to the neighborhood by enhancing food security and independence in an area that would otherwise struggle with food insecurity. However, for Reservoir Hill, Whitelock Community Farm is

more than just a farm. It is a place to socialize, learn, grow, and connect with the earth in an urban area. In addition to providing nutritious foods at affordable prices, Whitelock Community Farm also empowers community members through education, service and leadership development. Throughout the year, the farm hosts public workshops, educational field trips for local schools, and provides internship opportunities for Baltimore youth through the Youthworks program.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts to provide healthy produce in a food desert and strengthen their community through education and outreach, Whitelock Community Farm was awarded a *Clean Up and Green Up Maryland* grant from the **Keep Maryland Beautiful** program in the spring. Isabel Antreasian, Program Manager for the farm, says that the grant will help Whitelock continue to put on workshops, host educational events, and sustain their gardens for the Historic Reservoir Hill Community.

Keep Maryland Beautiful is sponsored by **Maryland Environmental Trust, State Highway Administration,** and the **Department of Housing and Community Development.** For more information about Whitelock Community Farm and market hours, please visit: <http://whitelockfarm.org/>

134,094 ACRES PERMANENTLY PROTECTED WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS HELD BY THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST



HE GAVE HIS LAND ITS DUE

Mr. John Logan Due, a lifelong Marylander and enthusiastic conservationist, passed away this May, just shy of his 96th birthday. In 1985, Mr. Due was one of twelve Maryland landowners to donate a conservation easement to MET, helping to bring its total protected acreage to over 20,000 acres. Grateful for the opportunity to prevent further development of his land, Mr. Due's easement preserves the beautiful vistas, steep wooded slopes, densely vegetated floodplains and rolling meadows of his 34-acre property in Howard County. In addition to protecting the land, Mr. Due restored the 19th century historic home on the property and lived there for the last 52 years. His background in geology, WWII naval service, world travel and unique knowledge of fine antiques influenced his beautiful home and magical gardens. The property is now referred to by the Maryland Historical Society as the "John Due House." His interests ranged from world geography to classical music to his colorful gardens that show his love of nature. He created special outdoor sitting areas throughout the property, designed to highlight the scenic views and plant varieties. Friends, family, and wildlife have shared and enjoyed his legacy. Because of his passion for conservation, the natural beauty of his land will be protected forever.



Oldfield Point Farms

Photos above: Stand of walnut trees (large), Brennan Starkey, General Manager of Oldfield Point Farms, LLC (inset)

In May of 2017, Maryland Environmental Trust and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy finalized a longstanding effort to acquire a major conservation easement in Kent County. This successful easement acquisition on the property known as Oldfield Point Farms has resulted in the permanent protection of 679 acres of farmland and forestland along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway (MD Route 213) and the Sassafras River. Oldfield Point Farms, LLC, granted the easement to forever protect the property’s scenic views, important habitat, and prime agricultural land from development and subdivision. The easement also provides access from the Sassafras River, creating a waypoint for those traveling along the river.

This family farm is an integral part of the area’s agricultural setting and provides travelers with breathtaking views of open fields, meandering riverfronts, and dense forest. The property consists of approximately 368 acres of farmland and 300 acres of riparian forest, shoreline along the Sassafras River, Dyer Creek, and Woodland Creek, as well as scenic road frontage along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway. The stunning



Pollinators at work.

natural landscape is also home to a Great Blue Heron rookery and Bald Eagle nest.

“We are pleased to have worked with our partners to protect this property,” said MET Director Bill Leahy. “The easement is the culmination of a several year effort by MET and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy staff to conserve this property, and is a great example of the Trust’s leadership role in the acquisition of a conservation easement involving multiple parties and funding.” MET worked with federal, state and local partners on this conservation easement.

Since 2007, the Trust, working in partnership with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, has completed seven easements along the byway protecting more than 2,500 acres of scenic lands. These efforts have also conserved important wildlife habitat and prime agricultural lands. Jared Parks, Conservation Easement Program Manager for Eastern Shore Land Conservancy says, “We are very pleased to help protect this important property, further securing the scenic, rural, ecological and agricultural character of this landscape.”



Dyer Creek

New Faces at MET

MICHAEL A. PRETL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trust is pleased to welcome Michael Pretl to its Board of Trustees

Michael A. Pretl is retired following 45 years of law practice in Maryland. He now resides on the Lower Eastern Shore, where he remains active in a leadership role and provides *pro bono* legal assistance to a number of environmental organizations and many other nonprofits. A Baltimore native and 1969 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Mike was a partner at Smith, Somerville & Case, created the firm of Pretl & Erwin P.A., and served for 16 years as the first general counsel for the American Urological Association at its headquarters in Linthicum. He served for six years on the governing board of the Lower Shore Land Trust, two terms as president of the Wicomico Environmental Trust, and currently chairs the board of the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance. He has also taught environmental law to undergraduates at Salisbury University, as well as a number of related courses to retired professionals for the Association for Lifelong Learning. Mike's wife, Michele Hughes, is a nonprofit executive, and they reside in a restored 130-year-old house in Riverton, on the Nanticoke River.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CONSTANCE LIEDER AND STEVEN QUARLES

Thank you to Constance Lieder and Steven Quarles for their tireless support of the Trust. They have rotated off the Board due to term limits.

MICHELLE FUNCHES TECHNOLOGY AND QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

In July, Michelle Funches joined the MET staff as the Technology and Quality Control Manager. She will be supporting the Conservation Easement and Stewardship Programs with management of technology, records, and data.

Michelle previously worked for Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, assisting the land acquisition and stewardship staff with conservation easement projects and technology. She holds a master's degrees in Environmental Science and Public Affairs from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and Policy from University of Maryland and is a lifelong resident of Prince George's County.



2017-2018 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 MET Board meetings:

2017: October 2, November 6, December 4

2018: February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, September 10, October 1, November 5, December 3

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!

My Summer with MET

BY: KAT PARDOE, MET INTERN

As an Environmental Studies major, I have to admit, I did not have high hopes for securing an awesome summer internship. After applying to (and getting rejected from) many organizations, I finally received some good news when I learned I would be interning with Maryland Environmental Trust for the summer. Needless to say, I was thrilled. Now, as I reflect back on my short time spent with MET, I am all the more grateful for the invaluable experience I've had working here. Interning at MET allowed me to be immersed in a dynamic organization filled with passionate employees who love their jobs. I quickly felt like a member of the team whose input and work was valued.

My summer was filled to the brim; in the span of eight short weeks, I attended two roundtable conferences, conducted three interviews, wrote several articles and one press release, participated in various meetings, developed a social media communications scheme and more, all while

deepening my understanding of the land trust community and the important work that they do.

Over the course of my eight weeks with MET, I particularly enjoyed interviewing and writing about Keep Maryland Beautiful grant recipients. It was extremely uplifting to connect with organizations that are working hard to make positive changes in their local environments and communities through education and service.

In the fall I will be returning to Bucknell University as a senior to finish my degrees in Environmental Studies and Political Science, and I am thrilled to be continuing my work with Maryland Environmental Trust remotely during the academic year.



Stewardship & Internship

BY KATELYN CLARK, STEWARDSHIP INTERN

When the opening arose for me to become an intern at the Maryland Environmental Trust, I jumped at the prospect of gaining insights on the workings of the land trust community. In the position I had the opportunity to assist the stewardship staff with mapping, easement monitoring prep, and on the ground monitoring visits. My first field visit was when I truly grasped how important the work is that the Maryland Environmental Trust does. I was lucky enough to monitor two amazing properties in southern Maryland. They were very different properties but you could see how both of these easements played an important part in preserving the land of Maryland. These protected properties are home to vast amounts of wildlife, they serve as an area that can help protect the watershed, and keep the scenic beauty of Maryland intact. Also when interacting with the landowners I was able to tell that they were very proud to be part of this land trust community which is trying to preserve the land for future generations. I was also lucky to help implement the new tools MET has been working on called LOCATE, bringing new technology into monitoring. Even in my short time at the Maryland Environmental Trust I can see how important this work is, not only for the present, but for the future. I plan to take the lessons that I've learned from this summer and apply it to my graduate program at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



MET LEADS THE WAY IN DATABASE MANAGEMENT

MET is working with Philadelphia-area consultant Back Office Thinking to customize our new web-based database, LOCATE, for use by MET and a set of pilot local land trusts in Maryland. LOCATE was originally developed for the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. By adapting this database, MET is creating a common platform for land trusts to manage their easement files as well as landowner communications. Unique to Maryland, this system will also facilitate the sharing of information on easement monitoring accomplishments between co-holder land trusts through database to database communication. By implementing this accessible, innovative and unified system, MET is creating opportunities for the land trust community to become more efficient in data management and communications at a reasonable cost.

Thank You to Our Recent Contributors

**Celebrating our
New Easement:
Oldfield Point Farms LLC**

(February 1, 2017 - August 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.

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MET

BY THE NUMBERS

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Environmental
Trust

134,094
acres

1,086
conservation
easements

50 years
of land
preservation



Protecting Land Forever

100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032
Tel: 410-697-9515
Fax: 410-697-9532
www.dnr.maryland.gov/met

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Whether you make an unrestricted contribution, donate to our stewardship fund, or support a special project or program, your gift to MET is appreciated and essential to our future. 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!

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.

HELP STRENGTHEN LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION!

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.

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 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.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE OPEN SPACE LEGACY SOCIETY!

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.

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