



## **Maryland Environmental Trust Presents Course on “Conservation Easements” On October 18<sup>th</sup> in Crownsville, Maryland**

Crownsville, Md (June 23, 2010) -- Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) presents a free informational course on “Conservation Easements – Legal and Financial Aspects” on Monday, October 18, 2010 from 8:45 a.m. to noon. This free event will be held at People’s Resource Center, Conference Room A, located at 100 Community Place in Crownsville. Doors open at 7:45 am and the program will begin at 8:45 am. Breakfast will be provided.

**What you will learn:** In this course you will learn standard conservation easement terms; the property, income and estate tax benefits of donating a conservation easement; and basics of conservation easement appraisals. You will walk away knowing the full suite of advantages that conservation easements provide your landowner clients. The course will cover the easement donation process and provide the tools needed to advise clients on such a donation. The course will also include recent changes in the Internal Revenue Code relating to charitable donations of conservation easements. Areas of legal practice include: Real Estate, Estate Planning and Tax Law.

**Who should attend:** Attorneys, CPAs, Appraisers, Real Estate Agents and others interested in learning about conservation easements.

**Speakers include:** **James Constable, Esq.** of Wright, Constable and Skeen, L.L.P.

Mr. Constable’s areas of practice include conservation easements and estate planning; he is the author of several publications on these subjects.

**Don Briggs, MAI, SRA**, of Briggs and Associates, Inc. Real Estate Appraisers and Consultants.

Mr. Briggs has over 36 years of appraisal experience, holds the Appraisal Institute’s Valuation of Conservation Easements certificate, and is Maryland's only LEED AP+ Appraiser.

**Kristen O. Maneval, Esq.** of the State of Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Ms. Maneval is counsel to the Maryland Environmental Trust.

**John Hutson**, MET Conservation Easement Program Manager. Mr. Hutson has more than 20 years experience negotiating, drafting, processing and stewarding conservation easements in Maryland.

**Please register before October 13<sup>th</sup>** by sending an email with the subject of “Register Conservation Easements – Legal and Financial Aspects” to [lholmes@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:lholmes@dnr.state.md.us) or by calling 410-514-7901.

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MET is a state-wide land trust and holds over 1000 easements, protecting over 125,000 acres of forest, farmland and scenic open space across Maryland. MET was established in 1967 by the Maryland General Assembly to preserve privately owned farm and forest lands and significant natural resources. MET is a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is governed by a citizen board of trustees. For more information, please visit MET’s website: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met/>.