



*Protecting Land Forever*

# ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR **2017**

JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**



## FY2017

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Environmental Trust 2017 Annual Report is prepared and submitted to the Governor and General Assembly of Maryland, pursuant to the requirements of the Natural Resources Article, §3-203.10.

Maryland Environmental Trust was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1967 as a charitable organization with state support and funding, and with an independent Board of Trustees. In 1969, The Trust was assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for organizational purposes.

For five decades Maryland Environmental Trust has worked with the citizens of Maryland and partner organizations to foster the appreciation and conservation of scenic open space, natural areas, and working farmlands across the state. With one of the largest portfolios of preservation and conservation easements in the nation, the Trust is a leader in its field. The Trust is responsible for perpetually stewarding these properties, some of Maryland's most iconic and culturally significant landscapes and properties.

### Our Mission:

Maryland Environmental Trust works with landowners, local communities, and citizen land trusts to protect Maryland's most treasured landscapes and natural resources as a legacy for future generations. We accomplish this work by providing direct assistance, information and innovative tools to ensure the ongoing stewardship and public concern for the natural, historic, and scenic resources of the state.

As one of the oldest and most successful land trusts in the country, The Maryland Environmental Trust holds over 1,086 conservation easements preserving over 134,000 acres statewide. This represents almost 10% of the states total inventory of protected lands.

From the Chesapeake Bay to the mountains of Garrett County, our Land Conservation, Monitoring and Stewardship, and Land Trust Assistance Programs promote the protection of open land.

### **MET's Creation**

In 1967 Maryland Environmental Trust was 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."

In 1969, Maryland Environmental Trust was transferred to the Department of Natural Resources. The Trust's establishment, powers, and responsibilities are codified in Natural Resources Article § 3-201. Therefore it has characteristics both of a unit of the Department of Natural Resources and an independent land conservation organization, and serves as a statewide land trust. The statute clarifies the Trust's duties and directs it to:

- (1) Receive annual appropriations;**
- (2) Sponsor research and education programs pertaining to scenic or cultural qualities of the state, including the provision of financial grants to public and private agencies assisting the Trust;**
- (3) Acquire and hold real and personal property of scenic or cultural importance to conserve it;**
- (4) Accept gifts, and apply their value to the general purposes of the Trust;**

- (6) Assist other units of the state and public or federal agencies and foundations in furtherance of the Trust's mission; and**
- (7) Report annually to the Governor and to the General Assembly on the Trust's activities during the preceding year and provide recommendations or requests to further the purposes of Maryland Environmental Trust.**

While Maryland Environmental Trust holds fee title in several properties, the vast majority of its property interests are in the form of conservation easements donated by landowners (and, in some cases, purchased using various sources of funding). Generally speaking, a conservation easement may be defined as a legally binding, recorded agreement between a landowner and the Trust which serves to restrict future development activities on the land and thereby to protect it.

### **Keep Maryland Beautiful**

The functions and activities of the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful were transferred to Maryland Environmental Trust in 1967. The Trust has awarded Keep Maryland Beautiful grants annually and further developed the program to include the Bill James Environmental Grants and the Margaret Rosch Jones Awards in 1986 for projects that focus on environmental education. New in 2017 was the addition of the Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant which focuses on urban communities and/or watersheds within urbanized areas with an emphasis on litter removal, engaging people in neighborhood revitalization, and community greening initiatives. The funding for these awards has been made possible through the support of Maryland Environmental Trust, the State Highway Administration and the Department of Housing and Community Development.



## Governance

MET is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or their designees, are ex officio members of the Board and submit candidates from which the Board elects trustees for a term of four years. In addition, the Board can appoint up to 12 area representatives to assist in carrying out the powers and duties of Maryland Environmental Trust.

## Staffing

In addition to the Director, who is selected by and reports to the Board, the staff includes a Conservation Easement Program Manager, a Stewardship Program Manager, a Land Trust Assistance Coordinator, a Volunteer Coordinator, two regional Natural Resources Planners, an office manager and additional support staff including seasonal and long term contractual employees and consultants. The Trust also relies on a growing corps of trained volunteers to assist with the regular monitoring of 1,086 easement properties held by the organization. At the conclusion of FY 2017, The Trust staffing was approximately 12 positions including full-time, part-time, and temporary staff.



MET Staff

## How We Work:

Building on our long track record of success, the Trust plays a unique role in Maryland

focused on activating the private sector in support of Maryland's conservation priorities. We focus on four broad strategies to accomplish this work:

- (1) Working directly with landowners, land trusts, and communities to permanently set aside land with critical conservation values, mainly through the acceptance of conservation easements. We proactively plan and identify areas of the state where land protection supports the state's goal for restoring and enhancing the Chesapeake Bay, sustaining local economies and communities, and building promoting conservation practices;**
- (2) Mobilizing resources – people, funding, and technology – in service of long term land stewardship. With over 134,000 acres under conservation easement, the Trust is focused on strengthening local capacity to ensure our conservation estate is cared for in perpetuity;**
- (3) Provide training, resources, expertise, and leadership to build a strong statewide land trust community that invests local communities and people in our conservation movement; and**
- (4) Expanding the constituency for natural resource conservation through innovative partnerships and funding to community based groups. These include schools, nonprofits, environmental educators, landowners, universities, and stewardship on the front lines, in their communities, developing innovative strategies and programs to engage people in our work, from the urban to the rural. Our Keep Maryland**

**Beautiful grants program is our most visible example of this work.**

In each of these focus areas, partnerships with other local, state, and federal government agencies, local and regional land trusts, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector are critical to the ongoing success of Maryland Environmental Trust.

**Funding**

Maryland Environmental Trust partners with private landowners, nonprofits, local communities and the public to ensure that all of Maryland’s treasured places are sustained for future generations. Your generous support is an essential part of our work.

In fiscal year 2017, \$1,379,037 of state funds was appropriated to MET. This included \$588,416 in general funds and \$790,621 in reimbursable funds (State Highways Administration, Coastal Zone Management, and Program Open Space administrative fees through the Department of Natural Resources). In addition, MET received private donations from foundations and individual donors totaling \$146,604. The summary of MET’s Financial Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year 2017 is included in the Appendices of this report.

**Conservation Easements and Their Stewardship**

Conservation easements - their negotiation, acquisition, recordation, and stewardship - is a central part of Maryland Environmental Trust’s work. Easements that are donated by private landowners are the primary mechanism by which the Trust works to accomplish its mission of preserving open space throughout the state of Maryland. These landowner stewards play a major part in ensuring the long term health of Maryland’s natural, historic, economic, and cultural resources.

The Trust currently holds more than 1,086 conservation easements, covering over 134,000 acres. Conservation easements are crafted to ensure that important scenic open space, including targeted ecological areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, forests and heritage areas – are maintained forever. They are an important component of the state’s broader public policy goals of ensuring the health and well-being of all Maryland citizens and the lands and waters we depend on, including the Chesapeake Bay. The importance of the Maryland State Income Tax Credit Program (a valuable incentive for land conservation) and the charitable contribution deduction for donation of perpetual conservation easements allowable under the federal Internal Revenue Service Code are key contributors to fostering gifts of conservation easements to the Trust and other land trusts. They help to allow for a cost effective approach to land conservation by supporting private citizen stewards across the State.

**Conveyance and Perpetual Stewardship of a Conservation Easement**

The Trust’s staff members work with landowners and community based land trusts to assist and guide them through the process of conveying a conservation easement.

The stewardship process - critical to the integrity of any easement program - consists of a range of activities essential to protecting land on which easements are donated in perpetuity. Key components of the Trust’s stewardship program include: landowner support, education, and assistance relating to such issues as land management practices and interpretation of specific easement provisions (regarding, for example, property subdivision or amendment to deed of easement); documentation and records

management (to ensure, for instance, accurate details of ownership, boundaries, and structures for easements held); regular site visits to property under easement; and upholding the public trust to ensure correction of easement violations, preferably through voluntary action by the landowner but, where necessary, with counsel from the Office of the Attorney General.



This easement in Somerset County is home to “Almodington,” a historic 18<sup>th</sup> century home, and protects over 200 acres of land along the Manokin River.

Every year, Maryland Environmental Trust seeks ways to strengthen and enhance our stewardship partners and networks. In furtherance of this goal, we have begun developing potential new funding sources to support private landowners seeking to provide Best Management Practices on this land.

Moving forward, we will continue efforts to ensure the Trust remains a durable and effective organization by strengthening our practices around the legal and financial requirements for long term stewardship.

### **Adoption of a New Strategic Vision**

The culmination of a year’s work, the Board of Trustees of Maryland Environmental Trust adopted a new Five Year Draft Vision Plan “A Bold Vision of sustainability.” The plan envisions a high level road map that dedicates the Trust to finding new

approaches and partnerships to land conservation continues to be acknowledged as a vital component of Maryland’s future identity and prosperity. To bring this vision into reality, the Plan calls for activating a new nonprofit, non-governmental organization, Forever Maryland, dedicated to stabilizing and strengthening Maryland’s Land Trust Community, by promoting new sources of private support, and promoting broader connection and community engagement activities, all designed to strengthen the connections between land trusts, land conservation and important public values. With the backing of the State and Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Trust will begin plans for moving this new partnership forward in FY 2018.

### **Conservation Easements Acquisition and Stewardship: Notable Accomplishments**

Fiscal year 2017 was another successful year for Maryland Environmental Trust in advancing its mission of acquiring, recording, and stewarding conservation easements: 1465 acres were protected on twelve easements, and MET and its cooperators together conducted monitoring visits to 236 easement and fee properties.

Other notable highlights:

- Celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Distributed \$160,300 in *Keep Maryland Beautiful* grants to community, volunteer, youth and environmental groups.
- Awarded \$27,000 in Janice Hollmann Grants to eight local land trusts to strengthen their conservation, outreach and stewardship programs.
- Laid the groundwork to spin off its land trust assistance program to a nonprofit corporation that would serve as the land trust service center for land trusts throughout the state. Natural Resources

and Department of Budget Management approved both the concept and the use of limited state time to morph an existing 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation into the land trust service center and to launch it. The Trust consulted with Office of the Attorney General from Budget Management and Office of the Attorney General / Opinions and Advice and with counsel to State Ethics Commission to clarify the permissible bounds of its use of state time for this endeavor.

- Conducted three annual fundraising appeals to over 2,000 constituents.
- Accepted twelve conservation easements protecting 1,465 acres of environmental, scenic, historic, or cultural significance across the state.
- Held a successful land trust conference at Pearlstone attended by 120 people.
- Wrote and distributed two issues of LandMarks newsletters to over 2,000 constituents and landowners.
- Implemented outreach campaign to prospective board members as required by the passage of Senate Bill 4 in 2016.

### Accreditation

The land trust movement in the United States has grown rapidly over the years and has become more professional, thanks in large part to the Land Trust Alliance. The Alliance has promulgated *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and provided funding to the Maryland Environmental Trust and other land trusts in Maryland to advance these practices and support strategic planning. The Alliance has also sponsored the Land Trust Alliance Commission, an independent program of the Alliance to verify a land trust's ability “*to operate in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner and ensure the long-term protection of land in the public interest.*”

Maryland Environmental Trust continues to make strides towards forming our plans to develop new, more efficient methods for monitoring and stewarding our conservation easements. This includes adopting new tools and technology and an expanded volunteer and intern program in FY2018. At its April meeting, Maryland Environmental Trust 's Board of Trustees adopted the 2017 version of *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.

### Conclusion

2017 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maryland Environmental Trust. The Trust began piloting new initiatives designed to address long term goals for strengthening private land conservation in the future. Under the leadership of our Director, the Trust is pursuing a new four pronged plan aimed at building on our past with determined focus on closing the land stewardship gap across the state, strengthening local land trusts through greater regional cooperation, focus on priority landscapes, mobilizing needed resources for land stewardship, and broadening constituencies for land conservation through our grant-making, and other forms of support, highlighting some of the most innovative community conservation partnerships in Maryland, especially in more urban areas. Ever mindful of the outstanding contributions of its many donors, partners and volunteers, the Trust expresses sincere appreciation to all who have so generously given of their time, talents, and resources to foster open space land conservation throughout Maryland, and the support of the DNR to advance our goals.



## CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

In the 2017 fiscal year Maryland Environmental Trust had three Regional Conservation Easement Planners soliciting, negotiating and completing conservation easements. This year the Trust protected a total of 1,465 acres on twelve easements statewide.

### WESTERN-CENTRAL REGION (Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Garrett, Frederick, Harford, Washington Counties and Baltimore City)

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

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.

The Trust 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 Department of Natural Resources' Rural Legacy Program, collectively protecting a total of 115 acres.



Monkton View in the springtime.

Gloria and Stephen Cameron, Trust easement landowners in Monkton, Baltimore County, strengthened easement protections on their 55 acre property. By amending their easement, which was originally donated to the Trust 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.

### SOUTHERN REGION (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties)

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America conveyed two new easements to the Trust 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 Trust easement on 127 acres of the farm, which was originally conveyed in 1998. The amendment strengthens the forest conservation provisions of the easement.



This beautiful view of Belmont Manor will be preserved forever thanks to the easement donation by Howard County.

Howard County granted an easement to the Trust 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 18<sup>th</sup> century and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**EASTERN REGION (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)**

In Wicomico County, the City of Salisbury granted an easement to conserve 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. The Trust holds this easement with the Lower Shore Land Trust.

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 18<sup>th</sup> century, is the oldest building in the district.

Also in Somerset County, the Trust and the Lower Shore Land Trust worked with Randy and Bobbie Stadler. The new easement donation protects over 150 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and meadows, along with nearly one mile of frontage along the Big Annemessex River.

The Trust worked with federal, state and local partners to purchase an easement in Kent County for a total of 697 acres of farmland along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway and the Sassafras River. The easement was purchased using federal transportation funds set aside for the protection of scenic views along the Byway and state funds from Program Open Space. The involvement aided in the protection of the property's ecological resources and helped provide public access from the Sassafras River. The Trust holds this easement with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Maryland Environmental Trust and its cooperators together conducted monitoring visits to 236 easement and fee properties which represents 22% of the Trust's easement portfolio monitoring visits are conducted in order to document current conditions and assess compliance with easement requirements. (This was a 18% decrease over FY2016 monitoring accomplishments, caused by staff turnover and vacancies experienced by both the Trust and local land trust partners.)

As part of its Land Trust Assistance Program, Trust staff assists land trusts with the training of volunteers, the inspection of coheld easement properties, enforcing easement terms, and the implementation of record keeping and documentation protocols. This year, staff assisted land trusts with the monitoring of 44 properties which was a 244% increase from FY2016 accomplishments, attributable to the replacement of a 9-month seasonal position with a full time contractual stewardship and monitoring position. Local land trusts reported an additional 96 properties monitored on their own in FY17, which staff recognizes is an undercount of actual accomplishments because land trust partners tend to monitor and report on a calendar year basis. Land trusts reported an additional 59 visits made in the first half of calendar year 2016, which don't count toward FY17 accomplishments. The Trust coholds more than half (597) of its easement portfolio with local land trusts, of which approximately a dozen are actively monitoring and reporting, and who collectively are responsible

for sharing oversight of approximately half of the co-held easements.

In addition to performing monitoring visits, staff reviewed and processed 237 reports for completeness and accuracy submitted by local land trusts and volunteers (including for prior calendar years), reviewed over 1,300 photographs, entered each report into the Trust's database, and copied reports and photographs into paper and digital folios. This was accomplished by two full-time contractual employees, who were also managing 20 volunteers and monitoring 115 easement properties, respectively.

Looking forward Maryland Environmental Trust's Stewardship Program seeks to increase efficiency and lighten its monitoring and stewardship load by developing and implementing new technologies, sharing them and other knowledge with local land trust partners, engaging in regional volunteer recruitment and training initiatives with local land trusts, colleges and universities, and converting contractual staff to permanent positions. The Trust has made significant progress in developing new field data collection and report generation tools working with the Chesapeake Conservancy. We are midway into a project developing and implementing a new web-based database (LOCATE), which will significantly streamline Maryland Environmental Trust stewardship operations, as well as reporting by participating land trusts.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

The Volunteer Program extends the outreach and presence of the Trust within the Stewardship Program with the support of donated funds. Volunteer Land Stewards represent the Trust, schedule visits, meet landowners, share stewardship ideas, and document changes to help preserve the conservation values that make these lands special.

In a transition year in which several volunteers moved away or retired from field work, 112 easement field files representing 16,428 acres were prepared for 32 volunteers; 69 volunteer field monitoring reports were reviewed and filed, and volunteers will be submitting an additional 43 reports. Between work in the field and the office, volunteers contributed more than 470 hours of service valued at \$10,810. Their generous donations of time and talent are true gifts to our air, land, and water quality - and to the people of Maryland.

New and experienced volunteers gathered for two trainings held on Maryland Environmental Trust easements. An October day at Summerfield Farm in St. Mary's County included nine students of St. Mary's College and five adults, part of a Keystone Seminar in Environmental Studies. Five new and seasoned volunteers attended a training at Sherwood House in Baltimore County in April.

For the coming year, the Volunteer Program will continue to increase the number of trained, active volunteers and assignments. By working on new partnerships with local organizations and introducing new field-friendly software,

the Trust can grow the efficiency and effectiveness of its monitoring and land conservation responsibilities.



Volunteer Coordinator, Dave Minges (far right) stands alongside a group of volunteers from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

### **2017 Volunteers**

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



## LAND TRUST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Maryland Environmental Trust serves as the statewide land trust. Local land trusts of which there are over forty in Maryland, work with and are assisted by the Trust. The Land Trust Assistance Program helps build and sustain the quality and effectiveness of the state's land trusts, and encourages participation in a number of national programs, such as the Alliance's Land Trust Standards and Practices and the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Local land trusts are nonprofit corporations designed to protect land within their geographical area from development, using conservation easements, gifts or purchases of land, limited development, conservation buyers, or promotion of existing local, state, or federal easement programs. These land conservation organizations range from small groups operated solely by volunteers to large land trusts with multiple professional staff. A directory of Maryland land trusts can be found on the Trust's website.

The Land Trust Assistance Program provides land trusts with:

- Technical Assistance - information and training, including quarterly Roundtables, volunteer monitor trainings and the annual Maryland Land Conservation Conference

- Targeting of Conservation Easements - information on state land conservation priorities
- Organizational support - to ensure adoption of Land Trust Standards and Practices
- Conservation Easements and Land Conservation - taking a lead in drafting new easements and easement amendments
- Cooperative Agreements – to strengthen collaboration and foster innovative approaches to conservation

Maryland Environmental Trust adopted a new model Cooperative Agreement in 2010. This agreement establishes roles for Maryland Environmental Trust and land trust partners and outlines principles in land conservation. A signed cooperative agreement is required for land trusts to receive Maryland Environmental Trust grants and potential state tax benefits for owners of properties with easements. In FY2017, Maryland Environmental Trust signed cooperative agreements with the following local and regional land trusts:

*American Chestnut Land Trust*  
*Cecil Land Trust*

Over the next five years, Maryland Environmental Trust will evaluate the status, re-define success for the collective, and launch a 21st century land trust assistance initiative to focus on strengthening local land trusts and regional partnerships in support of statewide priorities.



## MARYLAND LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE & SUMMIT

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, conservancies, governmental organizations and other partners who support land protection.

This year's conference theme was Strengthening Land Trusts for the Next Century. Attendees enjoyed education workshops, lightning talks series and peer-to-peer networking opportunities. The morning lightning talk series 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; Chesapeake Conservancy; The Conservation Fund; Land Trust Alliance; O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP; Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP; The Trust for Public Land; Maryland Historical Trust; Civil War Trust; Brown Advisory; L'Aiglon Foundation; GreenVest; The Nature Conservancy; S. H. Muller & Associates, LLC; GreenTrust Alliance Inc.; Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. and the Department of Natural Resources.*

## GRANTS AND AWARDS HOLLMANN GRANT PROGRAM

The Janice Hollmann Grant Program is part of the Land Trust Assistance Program provided by Maryland Environmental Trust

to support land trusts throughout Maryland. The grants are named for a woman who exemplified citizen leadership of local land trusts in Maryland. Janice Hollmann co-founded the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, and served on the Severn River Commission. She was named the Izaak Walton League's Conservationist of the Year in 1989 and the Capital newspaper's Person of the Year for 1990. Janice died in April 1990. The Trust's tribute to Janice Hollmann is this annual grant made in her honor for those local land trusts continuing in her footsteps.



2017 Hollmann Grant Recipients

These grants are generally targeted towards land trusts that demonstrate easement solicitation skills and that operate in regions of significant land conservation potential. The purpose of the Janice Hollmann Grant program is to build sustainable land trusts by increasing organizational capacity, developing community programs, implementing Standards and Practices and increasing public support for conservation, stewardship and related land trust activities in the State of Maryland.

The Hollmann grant program supported eight organizations. The grants helped fund a variety of eligible costs, including staff positions, technical consulting services, landowner outreach programs, stewardship and monitoring programs, and accreditation

preparation. Funding for the Janice Hollmann Grants is provided by the State Highway Administration.

### **AILEEN HUGHES AWARD**

Maryland Environmental Trust presents the Aileen Hughes Award annually to honor the late Aileen Hughes, a true leader in the conservation movement. Aileen was a supporter of women's and civil rights, as well as the protection of our state's natural and cultural resources. Aileen Hughes was the president of the American Chestnut Land Trust for many years.

The Aileen Hughes Award is given to recipients for their leadership roles in the land trust community. The award is given to an individual representing a Maryland land trust for leadership, partnership and innovation in a conservation project. The award is presented as a cash sum to the organization represented by the individual and is funded by non-state funds from Maryland Environmental Trust.

This year's Aileen Hughes Award recipient is Bill Kilby, Cecil Land Trust Board of Directors President, who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovation. Bill's noteworthy accomplishments include: establishing Cecil Land Trust, supporting numerous conservation projects, growing community partnerships, developing educational programs that engage the next generation of environmental stewards and dedication to ensure conservation continues to grow as a priority of life in Cecil County.



Board of Trustees Phil Hager presents the 2017 Aileen Hughes Award recipient to Bill Kilby, Cecil Land Trust Board of Directors President.



**KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL**

The Keep Maryland Beautiful program was the first program administered by Maryland Environmental Trust. This program is funded by Maryland Environmental Trust, the State Highways Administration and the Department of Housing and Community Development. It provides three sets of grants to municipalities, nonprofits and schools for beautification projects, community cleanup activities and environmental education programs throughout the state.

In 2017, The Trust awarded over \$160,000 to 49 municipalities, nonprofits and schools for beautification projects, community cleanup activities and environmental education programs throughout the state in 19 counties and Baltimore City.

**Bill James Environmental Grant totaled \$4,500**

*Sponsored by Maryland Environmental Trust and State Highway Administration*

The Bill James Environmental Grant of up to \$1,000 is awarded to school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other nonprofit youth groups for proposed environmental education projects.

Organization	County
Calvert County Public Schools	Calvert
ClearShark H2O	Anne Arundel
KidsSTREAM, Inc.	Charles
North County High School	Anne Arundel
Reginald F. Lewis High School, Rm. 317	Balt. City

**Margaret Rosch Jones Grants totaled \$5,800**

*Sponsored by Maryland Environmental Trust and State Highway Administration*

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award of up to \$2,000 is awarded to one or more nonprofit groups or communities for an ongoing project or activity that has demonstrated success in solving an environmental issue, whether local or statewide. This award recognizes those organizations that have been actively educating people in their community about litter prevention, community beautification, or eliminating or reducing the causes of a local environmental problem.

Organization	County
Harford Glen Environmental Education Center	Harford
It's About The Kids Education Organization	Balt. City
Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund	Anne Arundel
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center	Talbot
Sky Valley Association, Inc.	Garrett



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

**Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant  
Totalled \$150,000**

*Sponsored by the Department of Housing and Community Development, managed by Maryland Environmental Trust*

The Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant of up to \$5,000, is awarded to local groups and nonprofit organizations working to remove litter and engage residents and young people in neighborhood cleaning and greening initiatives, and community stewardship projects.

Organization	County
Alice Ferguson Foundation	Prince George's
Annapolis Maritime Museum	Anne Arundel
Art League of Ocean City	Worcester
Blue Water Baltimore	Baltimore City
Brunswick Main Street	Frederick
C.A.R.E. Community Association	Baltimore City
C.A.T. Club (Citizens Against Trash)	Harford
Cambridge Main Street	Dorchester
Citizens of Pigtown	Baltimore City
City of Cumberland's Neighborhood Advisory Commission	Allegany
City of Greenbelt's Department of Public Works	Prince George's
City of Hagerstown	Washington
City of Taneytown	Carroll
Downtown Frederick Partnership	Frederick
Druid Heights Community Development Corporation	Baltimore City
Elkton Alliance, Inc.	Cecil

Ellicott City Partnership	Howard
Friends of Patterson Park	Baltimore City
Greater Patapsco Community Association, Inc.	Baltimore
Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition	Baltimore City
Hollins Roundhouse INC., a community association	Baltimore City
Kent Island Beach Cleanups	Queen Anne's
Main Street Historic Chestertown	Kent
Main Street Middletown	Frederick
Montgomery Parks Foundation	Montgomery
NeighborSpace	Baltimore
Old Takoma Business Association	Montgomery
Parks & People Foundation	Baltimore City
Patapsco Heritage Greenway	Howard
Pigtown Main Street	Baltimore City
Rebuilding Together Baltimore - Govans	Baltimore City
Southwest Partnership	Baltimore City
Sykesville Main Street Assoc.	Carroll
Town of Hancock	Washington
Town of Oakland	Garrett
Town of Williamsport	Washington
UMD Harford Ex - Family & Cons Science. Master Gardener	Harford
Whitelock Community Farm	Baltimore City
York Road Partnership	Baltimore City

### **LAND TRUST GRANT FUND**

The Land Trust Grant Fund was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1990 with a primary purpose to provide interest-free loans to help land trusts purchase conservation lands and easements. Administration of the Fund was assigned by statute to the Maryland Environmental Trust. (§ 3-2A-02 (c)). Over the years Maryland Environmental Trust has managed the fund so as to aid various land conservation projects throughout the state. These projects permanently protected 2,000 acres (as of June 30, 2011) through purchased and donated easements to the Trust and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

As of FY 2009 the Fund had a balance of \$1,500,000 in the Reserve Account, and approximately \$253,000 in the Active Account. However, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2010 (SB 141/ HB 151) provided that, on or before June 30, 2010, the Governor may transfer to the General Fund \$1,500,000 of the funds in the Land Trust Grant Fund established under Section 3-2A-02 of the Natural Resources Article. That was done - \$1.5 million dollars of the Fund was diverted to the state budget, leaving a balance of \$0 to assist land trusts.

### **Future of the Land Trust Grant Fund**

Maryland Environmental Trust has begun discussion with the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, local land trust and others about the future of the Land Trust Grant Fund. Demand is strong – the need is high for repositioning the Fund. As Maryland Environmental Trust and the new Forever Maryland Foundation get going, we envision a restored, retooled Fund as a key component of our vision for a strong land trust community.

The loans made through the Fund have been highly leveraged. The Fund provides on average only one fifth of the project purchase price, the balance coming from local community and other private fund sources. In total, \$2.7 million dollars have been loaned from the Fund to land trusts, with an additional \$9.4 million coming from conservation partners. For the reasons explained below, no expenditures or reimbursements were made during FY11 through FY17; all outstanding loans had been repaid prior to the start of this fiscal year.



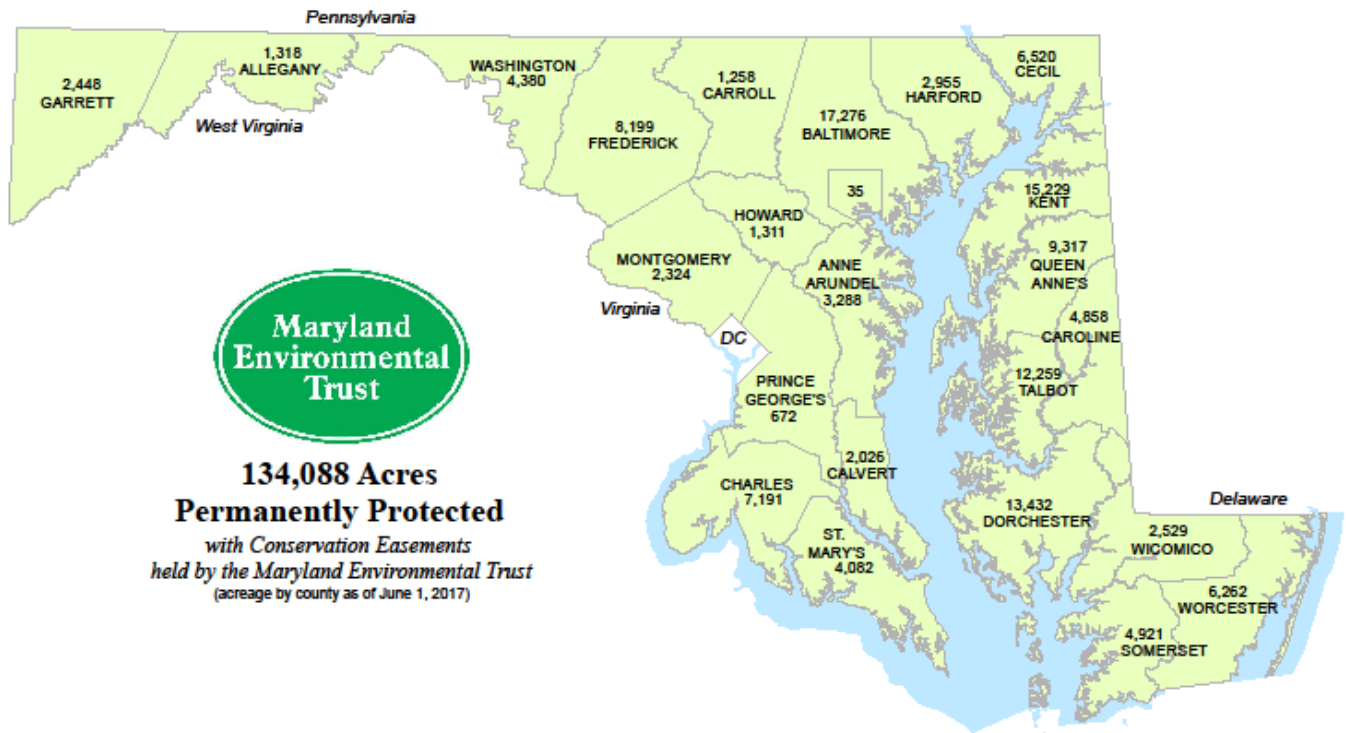
### Recommendations

The Trust's ability to assist its partners and provide a rapid response to protect significant open space and natural resources has been drastically diminished; as of June 30, 2017, the Fund had a zero balance. Previously a portion of the fund balance had been allocated to Maryland Environmental Trust annually through the state budgeting process, to support costs of monitoring and other related administration costs.

The Trust's Board feels strongly that the Fund should be replenished so that it may continue to serve as a critical source of financing to land trusts in their efforts to protect open space. The Fund has worked effectively as a rapid response land preservation tool. In the past the Fund was available for grants and loans to land trusts at no interest for use when valuable resource lands are threatened by development. No

other state program is that flexible and available at such short notice. The readjustment of land prices may spur demand for loan funds as public/private partnerships emerge to address local land use issues with voluntary conservation measures. The accrual of interest earned to the General Fund of the state further diminishes future funding for land conservation projects.

The Board of Trustees of The Trust recommends that the Fund be restored to its original levels and maintained and increased as soon as fiscally possible, and that the Governor and General Assembly thus support the program's goals, to assist Maryland's land trusts in their efforts to preserve open space and the state's natural areas.



Appendix 1

**MET Financial Statement - July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**  
**State Administered Funds**

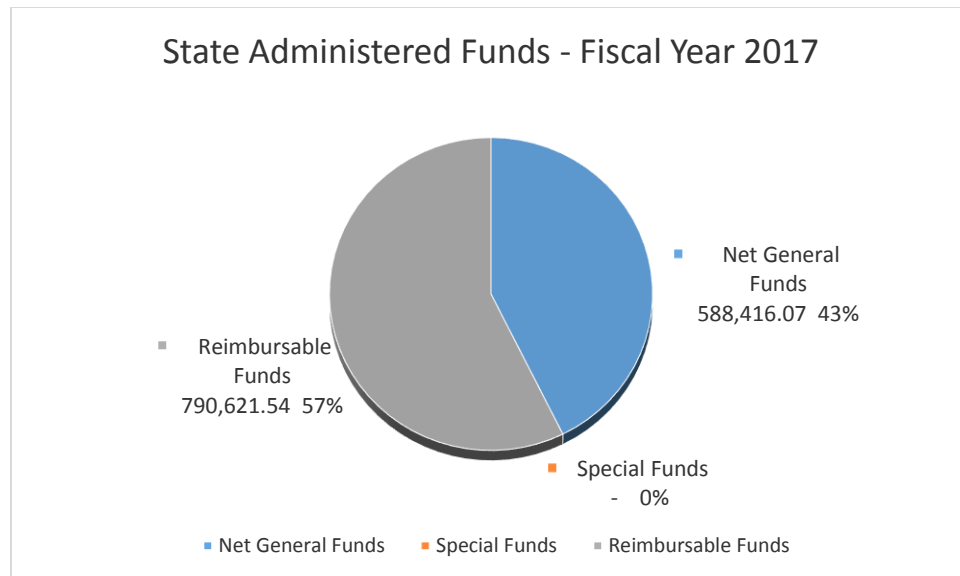
**FISCAL YEAR 2017**

Number of Authorized Positions	8
Number of Contractual Positions	2
Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	723,721.88
Total Operating Expenses (including contractual services, grants, communications, travel, equipment, supplies and materials)	655,315.73
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,379,037.61</b>

**FUND SOURCES**

Net General Funds	588,416.07
Special Funds	-
Reimbursable Funds	790,621.54

**TOTAL** **\$1,379,037.61**



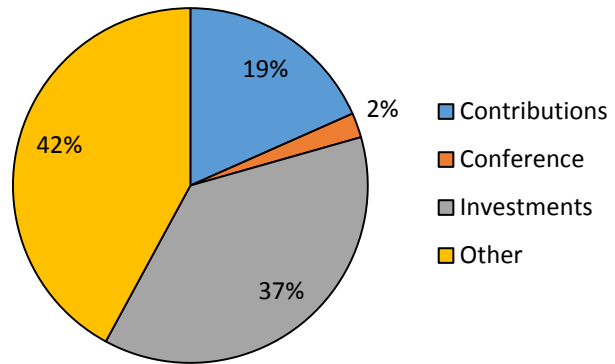
Appendix 2

**MET Statement of Financial Activities - July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**  
**MET Administered Funds**

**SUPPORT AND REVENUES**

Contributions & Grants	\$	146,604
MLTA Conference		17,915
Investment Income, net		297,908
Other Revenues		336,100

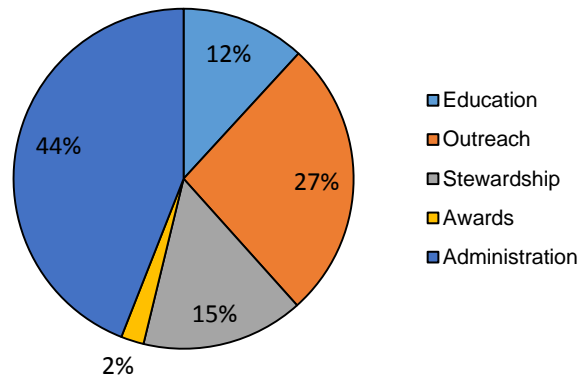
**TOTAL REVENUES**      **\$ 798,527**



**EXPENSES**

LLT Education Program	\$	23,365
Outreach Program		52,483
Stewardship Program		30,494
Awards & Grants		4,300
Administrative Expenses		87,041

**TOTAL EXPENSES**      **\$ 197,683**



**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**      **\$ 600,844**

### Appendix 3

#### CONTRIBUTORS

(July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

#### Conservation Champion \$10,000+

Graham Capital  
Land Trust Alliance  
The estate of Alverta and Louisa Dillon  
The estate of Sarah Griggs  
The Helena Foundation

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

Mr. Perry Bolton  
Hillsdale Fund/Agua Fund  
David D. Smith

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

Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Inc.  
Doris Blazek-White and Thacher W. White  
*in memory of John Hutson*  
J. Dorsey Brown  
April L. Carter-Hutson *in memory of John Hutson*  
Chesapeake Conservancy  
Mr. and Mrs. James Constable  
Gerret Copeland  
Dr. Wilson Coudon and Nancy Coudon  
Louisa Copeland Duemling  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
Lorraine B. Healey  
Hoffman Terryberry Gift Fund  
L'Aiglon Foundation/ Stanislaw  
Maliszewski and Julia Jitkoff  
Patricia V. Melville  
Mr. and Mrs. James R. O'Connell *in memory of John Hutson*  
O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP  
Judge S. Jay Plager  
Jennifer Stanley  
The Conservation Fund  
The Rev. Wendy Salisbury Howe *in honor of Tod & Barry Salisbury*  
The George A. Murnaghan Fund  
The Riepe Family Foundation  
Wright, Constable & Skeen, L.L.P.

#### Habitat Hero \$500-\$999

John and Marjorie Blodgett  
Brown Advisory  
Dr. and Mrs. Gary P. Carver *in memory of Murray Carver, Frances Carver, Lynn Dale Carver*  
Civil War Trust  
Ethan Assal and Lynne Detar  
Iva Louise Gillet  
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Greene *in memory of John Hutson*  
GreenTrust Alliance Inc.  
Greenvest, LLC  
Royce Hanson  
Tim and Julie Hussman  
William Kilby  
William & Lorien Leahy  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC  
Mr. William C. Rowland, Jr., Gone Huntin' Farm  
Barry and Tod Salisbury  
S. H. Muller & Associates LLC  
William C. Trimble, Jr.  
Trust for Public Land  
Kathryn Weise  
Rufus Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Wolfe Jr.  
  

#### Land Supporter \$100-\$499

Frank R. and Christina L. Allen  
Chet & Paula Anderson  
Anonymous  
Melvin Bender  
Nelson Bortz  
David A. Bramble  
Ms. Marney Bruce  
Ms. Gemmell Bruner  
Mary Burke  
Mr. Gary S. Burnett  
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Cameron  
Ann Gutierrez Carlson *in memory of John Hutson*  
Burnet H. Chalmers  
Hamilton Chaney



Mr. and Mrs. John T. Chay  
Elaine Christ *in memory of John Hutson*  
Conservancy for Charles County, Inc.  
Diana E. Conway  
Nessly and Susan Craig *in memory of John  
and Jean Malkmus*  
Dr. Gail Cunningham and Mr. David  
Sutphen  
Robert B and Julie Deford  
Mr. Hal Delaphane  
Suzanne Dorsey  
Terry R. Dunkin  
Robert J. Etgen *in memory of John Hutson*  
Mr. Alex G. Fisher  
Ruann Newcomer George  
Amanda Gibson *in memory of John Hutson*  
Richard Gold  
Greg and Donna Greisman  
Philip R. Hager *in memory of John Hutson*  
Kevin Haus *in honor of Ellen H. Kelly*  
Gwendolyn Hawkins *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
Francis J. and Marianne L. Hickman  
James L. Highsaw *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
Dr. Lorretta J. Hopkins  
Jeffrey Hutson *in memory of John Hutson*  
Kenneth Ingham  
Larry and Nancy Isaacson  
Thomas B. Jeffers  
Nancy Jessen *in memory of John Hutson*  
Ann Jones *in memory of John Hutson*  
James B. Kaper  
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Kristin Kirkwood *in memory of John Hutson*  
Ms. Barbara Knapp  
Rick Leader *in memory of John Hutson*  
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Kristen Maneval  
Marilyn Mause  
Paul Meola  
Charles H. Miller  
William and Julie Ann Minogue *in memory  
of John Hutson*

Katherine Munson *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
Rich Raesly  
Janet Richardson-Pearson & William  
Pearson  
Scenic Rivers Land Trust *in memory of John  
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John Hutson*  
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Gita S. van Heerden  
Stanley Watkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Webbert  
Harry V. Webster  
Lucy and Vernon H.C. Wright

**Friend \$10-\$99**

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Megan Benjamin *in memory of John Hutson*  
Ron Boyer/Liz McDowell  
Jonathan Chapman *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
Ms. Susan Charkes *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
Mr. James Choukas-Bradley  
Mr. Dick D'Amato  
Dan and Veronica DeMarco *in memory of  
John Hutson*  
Carrie Dike  
Ramalakshmi Dilip *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
Vladimir Dupre  
Mrs. Georgia Eacker  
Jim Garland *in memory of John Hutson*  
Michelle Grafton *in memory of John Hutson*  
Wendy Grindstaff *in memory of John  
Hutson*  
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Darryl C. Harris  
Ronnie Hay and Richard Hill  
James Hayes

Josephine Herring *in memory of John  
Hutson*

Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Huber

Henry H. Jenkins

Rebecca Kucera *in memory of John Hutson*

Joan R. Lally *in memory of John Hutson*

John MacLean *in memory of John Hutson*

Alexandra Medley *in memory of John  
Hutson*

Tanya Mekeal *in memory of John Hutson*

Judi Newman *in memory of John Hutson*

Achsah O'Donovan

Linda P. Orff

Ms. Kate Patton

Ethel June Pettit *in memory of John Hutson*

Cynthia Powell *in memory of John Hutson*

Abigail Ratcliff *in memory of John Hutson*

William F. Rienhoff

Erin Stapleton *in memory of John Hutson*

Wendy Stringfellow *in memory of John  
Hutson*

The Aybar Family

Cathy Tipper

John Turgeon *in memory of John Hutson*

John S. Weske

Kathleen B. White *in memory of Maynard  
P. White Jr.*

Helen Wilkes

### **Conservation Easement Donors**

Kevin P. Barr

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Walton League of America, Inc.

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Linda Jean Jaehnigen

Celeste Inez Maiorana and Matthew Charles  
Leefer

Michael Anthony Maiorana and Intawon

Angela Maiorana

Oldfield Point Farms, LLC

Melissa A. Sperau and Daniel A. Sperau

Randolph Stadler and Barbara M. Stadler

### **Open Space Legacy Society**

Dr. and Mrs. Gary P. Carver

Ms. Constance J. Lieder

The Honorable S. Jay Plager

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Schmaljohn



*Protecting Land Forever*



100 Community Place, Third Floor, Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

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