



**Maryland Environmental Trust** 2003 Annual Report

There is a Maryland Environmental Trust established to conserve, improve, stimulate, and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic, and cultural qualities of the environment, including but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities, open spaces, buildings or any interest therein, and other appurtenances pertaining in any way to the State.

Through educational and other means, the Trust shall encourage and motivate the populace of the State and others to do so and shall promote the 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.



# *Letter from the Director*

## **Evolving Measures – Growing Conservation**

We often hear it said that landowners have a hard time keeping up with all the conservation options and programs available to them in Maryland. It can be difficult to assess the benefits and limitations of each, the dependable facts, and the uncertainties. Still, landowners are best served by the opportunity to choose the program that best 'fits' their land and goals. Considering budgets and political realities, we can imagine a time when some of Maryland's easement purchase programs, such as Rural Legacy, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation may not be funded at the levels they were in 2003.

During the year many owners of qualifying properties – larger farm and forest lands, for the most part - succeeded in selling conservation easements to such programs. Maryland Environmental Trust and the Rural Legacy Program worked together on many of these easements. The Trust was heavily involved in the negotiations of easement terms and took on the role of co-grantee with local land trusts and governments. The combination of purchased and donated easements resulted in a near-record year for MET land protection – 9,844 acres and 81 easements.

Easement sale opportunities are bound to come and go over the years, and constituents for such programs need to be active during years of State

budget deficits to keep these programs alive and funded. But other tools are available to attract easement donations, even when the State cupboards are bare. Donations are a good deal for Maryland taxpayers costing the State about \$260 an acre in staff time and tax benefits as opposed to \$2,500-\$3,000 an acre to buy easements. The landowner gets a 'package' of benefits that includes a 15-year property tax credit, a state income tax credit, federal income tax deductions and estate tax benefits. Some counties, as well, are creating local property tax breaks for donated easements.

We welcome interest at the legislative level from donors and landowners who would like to see the donation benefits enhanced as a cost-effective means of achieving public policy goals. Future possibilities include such measures as raising the limits on the state income tax credit, making the credit transferable, and enacting legislation to keep property tax assessment rates low on easement land. On the federal level there are proposals to raise the limits on the deductibility of gift easements, making donations more attractive to landowners of moderate means. With more tools, all of us — landowners, land trusts, and policymakers — can do an even better job of protecting Maryland's special natural places.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

*John Bensten*

# *Description of Programs*

## **Conservation Easement Program**

The primary focus of the Trust is the protection of land from development through donated conservation easements. A conservation easement is a perpetual legal agreement between a landowner and the Trust, ensuring that a property shall not be developed (or subdivided) beyond a limit agreed upon by both parties. The land is thereby protected and preserved; the landowner retains all rights of ownership and privacy. An easement is binding on all future landowners and may lead to significant income, estate, and property tax benefits.

## **Stewardship Program**

The monitoring of conservation provisions on properties whose easements have been donated or sold is a significant long-term responsibility of the Maryland Environmental Trust. Monitoring is an ongoing and continuous activity required by federal, state, and local government statutes and ordinances affecting real property, its uses and tax status. IRS regulations require that non-profit organizations maintain an active stewardship program which includes periodic visits to protected properties to assure compliance with conservation deeds of easement. The Stewardship Program at MET maintains a data base of core information about every easement and inspects and documents easement conditions periodically. In addition to professional staff, this Program relies heavily on the assistance and cooperation of local land trusts and a large group of trained volunteers.

## **Local Land Trust Assistance**

The Trust assists citizen groups in the formation and operation of local land trusts by offering training, technical assistance, administrative and project grants, and membership in the Maryland Land Trust Alliance. Conservation easements may be jointly held with the Trust and a local land trust.

## **Keep Maryland Beautiful**

Through such incentives as the Bill James Environmental Grant and the Margaret Rosch Jones Award, the Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) program focuses on environmental education projects. Established in 1986, the Keep Maryland Beautiful program supports voluntary activities and achievements by school groups, civic and community organizations.

## **Land Conservation Center**

MET launched the online Land Conservation Center this year in response to perennial questions about the variety of land preservation programs available to landowners in Maryland. Found at [www.conservemd.org](http://www.conservemd.org), the site is designed to be a central point of general information about many aspects of land protection in the State and a point of departure to links providing more detailed and up-to-date status of programs and issues. Development of the website was made possible through a generous grant from the Abell Foundation.

# Regional Reports

## OVERVIEW

The protection of 9,844 acres of land on 81 new easements made FY 2003 (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003) another very busy year for the Maryland Environmental Trust. This year's total approaches last year's record accomplishments. Purchased easements — made possible largely through the Rural Legacy Program — accounted for almost 60% of the total acreage protected. MET acts as one of a number of easement holder options available to the landowners in the Rural Legacy Program which is administered and funded by the Department of Natural Resources. Targeted areas of the State are proposed by sponsors (often alliances of local land trusts and County governments) and compete for funding. The sponsors identify properties, solicit landowner interest, negotiate price, and arrange payment. Most MET easements in recent years, both donated and purchased, are held jointly with local land trusts. As of June 30, 2003, MET's cumulative totals since 1972 were 747 easements covering 99,742 acres.

## CENTRAL REGION

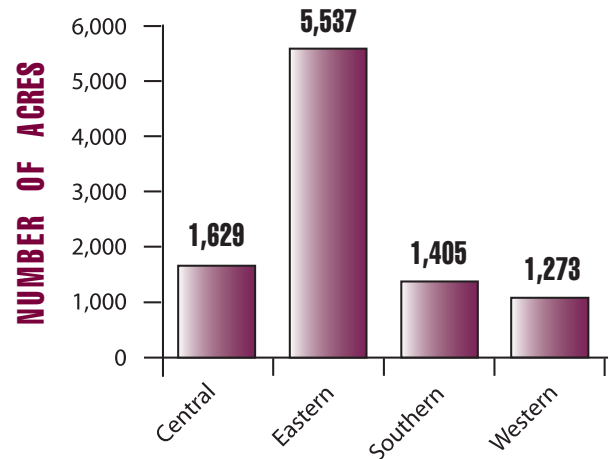
**Baltimore • Carroll • Cecil • Harford • Howard • Montgomery**

Central Region Planner Jim Highsaw recorded 30 easements protecting a total of 1,629 acres. Twenty-three easements comprising 1,114 acres were donated and seven easements on 514 acres were purchased.

Baltimore County continues to lead the region for number of new easements as well as acres protected. This year's acquisitions total 24 easements on 855 acres: 19 donations covering 578 acres and five purchases protecting 277 acres. The donated easements

include: four contiguous easements totaling 265 acres of woodland in the Western Run/ Belfast Road Historic District; six easements covering 142 acres in the Worthington Valley Historic District; 25 acres of farm and woodland protecting the setting for an historic house on Old Court Road; 31 acres of farmland near Glyndon; 30 acres of open space formerly part of the Rosewood State Hospital property west of the Caves Valley; 26 acres on Carroll Road south of the My Lady's Manor Historic District; 26 acres in northern Baltimore County with a tributary of Deer Creek; 20 acres next to a large Rural Legacy easement in the Piney Run area; 7 acres next to a cluster of easements in the Green Spring Valley Historic Dis-

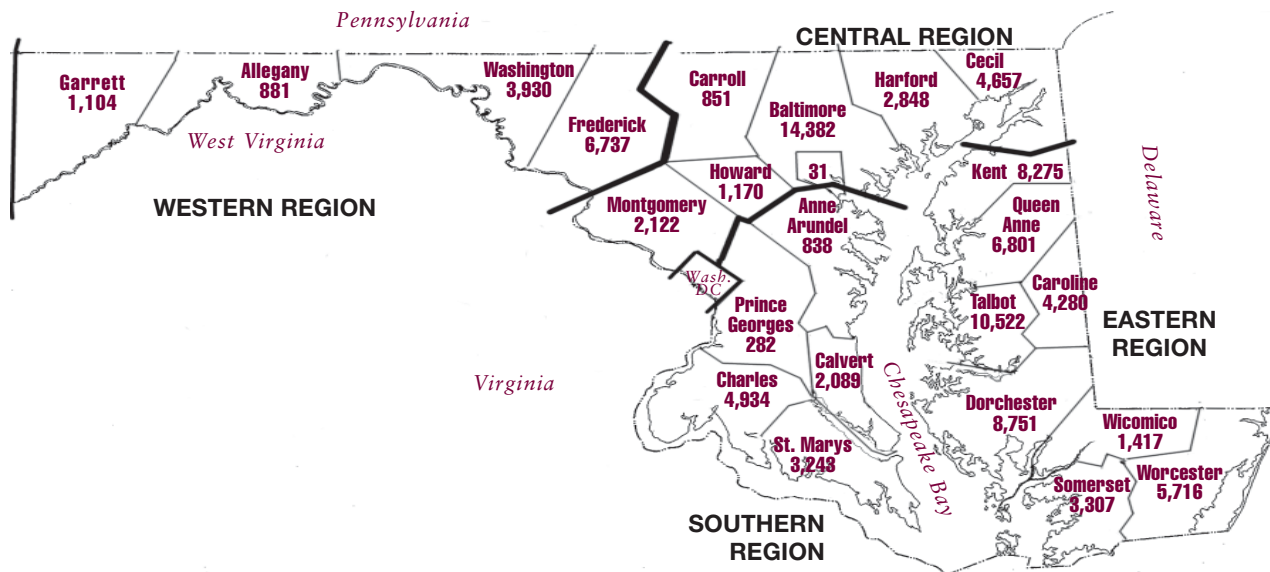
**FY 2003 Easement Acres Acquired by Region**  
**TOTAL: 9,844 ACRES**



tract; 3 acres next to Patapsco State Park in the Oella area; and 3 acres added to an existing easement in the My Lady's Manor Historic District. Rural Legacy easements in the County include: 176 acres between Falls Road and Blackrock Road; 49 acres near Arcadia; 21 acres on Blackrock Run; 20 acres on Piney Run north of Dover; and 11 acres on Piney Run near Trenton.

In Harford County, MET received a 237-acre donated easement along Little Gunpowder Falls in the My Lady's Manor Historic District, west of Jarrettsville. The property is adjacent to other MET easements and creates a block of 450 acres of protected land. In Cecil County, MET accepted a donated easement on 156 acres on Furnace Bay and Mill Creek most of which is in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The Cecil Land Trust used Rural Legacy funds to purchase an easement on a 108-acre farm next to the State's Fair Hill Natural Re-

source Management Area. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy used Rural Legacy funds to purchase an easement on a 129-acre farm next to other MET easements along Grove Neck Road west of Cecilton. The property includes a significant natural area along Money Creek, a tributary of the Sassafras River. MET is co-holder of both of these purchased easements. A family in Carroll County donated an easement on 75 acres next to the protected forest lands surrounding Liberty Reservoir. One of the family members had previously donated an easement on another property she owns next to the reservoir lands. In Howard County, the owner of a farm near Rocky Gorge Reservoir donated an easement which includes a tributary of the reservoir, 59 acres of farm and woodland, and ten acres being used for recreational purposes. This easement was featured by the Washington Post in April 2003.



## WESTERN REGION

### Allegany • Frederick • Garrett • Washington

Western Region Planner Barbara Levin recorded ten easements protecting a total of 1,273 acres. Four easements comprising 147 acres were donated and six easements on 1,126 acres were purchased.

Frederick County landowners protected 513 acres of this total, including the 375 acres under the Rural Legacy Program on four easements. In Washington County, the Roulette family placed an easement on their 200-acre home farm. The Roulette property is one of the most significant parcels of privately-held land in the vicinity of the Antietam National Battlefield. Throughout the Battle of Antietam, during the Civil War, the area that is now the Roulette property was a staging area for Confederate troops and a gathering point for units that had withdrawn from the field after engaging in combat. Because of its proximity to General Lee's headquarters it is very likely that the general and other Confederate commanders such as Stonewall Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart traversed the area as they directed troops and guns onto the battlefield. In the westernmost part of



Maryland MET protected 590 acres in Garrett County. The Board of Commissioners placed a conservation easement on land they obtained as part of a winter sports park. The easement allows passive recreation while protecting Fork Run Creek (a tributary of the Youghiogheny River), significant woodlands, and a variety plant and animal species known to exist on the property.

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Anne Arundel • Calvert • Charles • Prince George's • St. Mary's

Southern Region Planner Diane Chasse recorded thirteen easements protecting a total of 1,404 acres, all of which were donated.

St. Mary's County landowners protected 380 acres of the region's total, including a 222-acre easement donated by Paul Facchina, Sr., his fifth to the MET since 1996. The previous four easements are located in Charles County. This latest Facchina easement protects the headwaters of the St. Mary's River and habitat for Forest Interior Dwelling birds. Mr. Facchina is also the first individual since 1986 to preserve over 1,000 acres of land. In northern St. Mary's County, partners Wayne Wilkerson (third time easement donor) and Kent Chadwick donated an easement on 93 acres. The property follows Indian Creek and lies upstream of the 570-acre Patuxent Vista Natural Resource Management Area. In southern St. Mary's, a lovely property on Potter Creek owned by J. Frank Raley was perpetually protected. The Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust and MET co-hold the 63-acre easement, which protects the scenic rural landscape, agricultural land, and wildlife habitat adjacent to Point Lookout State Park.

In neighboring Charles County, David and Dana Posey gave ownership of a 14-acre parcel in the Town of Indian Head to MET. The forested property is entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and has an





outstanding view of the Potomac River. Platted for 21 lots, the land was donated 'fee-simple' to MET. It is the sixth conservation donation by the Poseys for a family tally of 300 acres. In southern Charles County, Michael Sullivan donated a conservation easement on 91 acres of his historic Mt. Victoria Farm. This valuable farmland is adjacent to 119 acres that Mr. Sullivan previously protected and is close to over 600 acres of easement land. Protecting the scenic view of the north side of the Wicomico River are donated easements from two Charles County landowners. Pierre Tilman's 56 acres are directly on the Wicomico River and adjoin 340 acres of easement land. Nearby is Lloyd S. Bowling, Sr.'s property with another spectacular view of the river. He donated a 31-acre easement to MET and the Conservancy for Charles County. Elsewhere in Charles County, James (third time easement donor) and Lisa Lorenzi donated an easement on 25 acres of woodland that overlooks the Port Tobacco River from a majestic bluff.

In Prince George's County, Gary Rubino and Karen Thomas donated an easement on 66-acres of forested land near Accokeek. A tributary of the Pomonkey River is protected by the easement. Also in Prince George's County, Washington Savings Bank donated an easement on 49 acres in the Brandywine area. The easement maintains the scenic rural character of the area and is habitat for wildlife and Forest Interior Dwelling birds.

In Anne Arundel County MET worked with two State agencies to preserve land. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene transferred 559 acres to MET. The land extends for nearly 1.5 miles along the west side of Route 97 in Crownsville, and is characterized by hilly topography, wetlands and streams, which flow into the South River. The Maryland Port Administration also protected 115 acres with a conservation easement held jointly by MET and the North County Land Trust. Located on the Marley Neck Peninsula, this

property contains wetlands and habitat for wildlife and waterfowl, and drains to the adjacent Patapsco River. In the scenic settlement of Deale, Tom Magenau, owner of Tristate Marine, donated a 23-acre easement on a pristine property in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. Mr. Magenau currently allows local Boy Scouts to camp on the land.

## **EASTERN REGION**

**Caroline • Dorchester • Kent • Talbot  
• Queen Anne's • Somerset • Wicomico • Worcester**

Eastern Region Planner John Hutson recorded 28 easements protecting a total of 5,537 acres. Ten easements comprising 1,128 acres were donated and 18 easements on 4,409 acres were purchased through the Rural Legacy Program. The Eastern Region's total protected acres constitute 56% of all the acreage protected by MET in the State this fiscal year. The donated easements are located in only four of the eight counties in this region. All easements in the northern five counties are held jointly with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC). Those in Wicomico and Worcester counties are co-held with the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT).

Kent County landowners lead the Shore in donated easements protecting 647 acres on five properties. Three properties comprising another 814 acres also sold easements bringing the County's total to 1,461 acres. The Payne family donated their second easement on 66 acres of prime farmland across Still Pond Neck Road from their 155-acre home farm which was protected by MET and ESLC in 1991. The dairy operation lies near over 544 acres of land protected by a number of preservation programs. For more than three generations young campers attending the nearby Echo Hill Outdoor School have milked cows and learned about farming from Bob and Jean Payne. The protection of Bill

D'Alonzo's magnificent 479-acre farm marked MET's 700th conservation easement. This property has over a mile of frontage along both Turners Creek and MD Route 444. Managed for wildlife habitat and hunting, many conservation practices used to protect water quality have been established on the farm, and Mr. D'Alonzo, along with his farm manager, has succeeded in bringing wild turkeys back to the area. In other areas of the County, MET and ESLC preserved a 20-acre woodlot off Perkins Hill Road, part of a 1,150-acre block of land protected by Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easements and close to nesting bald eagles; a 23-acre wildlife preserve with over 900 feet of Chesapeake Bay frontage; and 58 acres of woodland and farm fields along Island Creek - steep wooded bluffs that are prime wildlife habitat, travel corridors and food sources and lies adjacent to 375 easement-protected acres.

In Dorchester County, MET and the ESLC have preserved 343 acres on three properties. Two easements on 176 acres were acquired by donation, the remaining easement (167 acres) was purchased. Tudor Farms added 56 acres of woodlands, suitable habitat for the Delmarva fox squirrel and Forest Interior Dwelling Birds to their earlier easement donation in 1991 of 2,533 acres. Ed and Susan Middleton donated a conservation easement on their 120-acre farm in the Neck District of Dorchester County, a key parcel adjacent to another 250-acre MET-held conservation easement. The Middleton easement preserves scenic views and farmland in the Choptank River watershed.

Talbot County landowners preserved 773 acres on four properties with help from MET and ESLC. Two easements on 277 acres were donated and another two properties sold easements on 496 acres. These conservation lands include a 225-acre easement on Bolingbroke Creek, a 52-acre parcel on scenic Island Creek Road, 241 acres with scenic frontage on Lewistown and Cov-

ey's Landing roads, and 255 acres along Matthewstown Road. Queen Anne's County landowners, Barry and Diana Waterman, protected their 27-acre property along Greenwood Creek and Bennett Point Road. Caroline County saw 859 acres on five farms along the Tuckahoe and Marshyhope rivers protected through the Rural Legacy Program, MET, and ESLC preserving forever prime agricultural soils and undeveloped river frontage.

Donald Hall, Jr. preserved his beautiful and ecologically diverse 1,387-acre farm south of Quantico in Wicomico County through the Rural Legacy Program. The unusual topography, ranging from wet non-tidal woodlands to steep ravines and sand hills, is home to a variety of heritage plant species of concern. Six Worcester County landowners sold easements to protect 1,386 acres giving the county the regional lead for amount of purchased easement acreage.

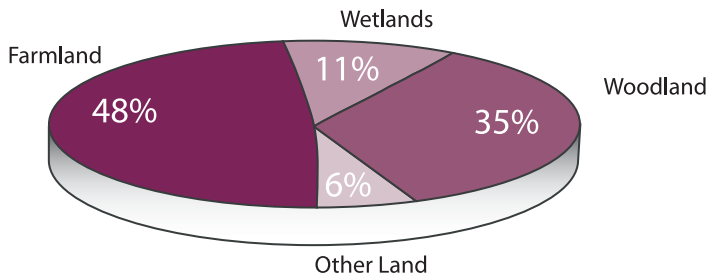


# By the Numbers

## MET Easements Across Maryland

### EASEMENT CONSERVATION FEATURES

99,742 Acres – end of FY 2003



NOTE: "Other Land" is land in structures, yards, driveway, etc.

### EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP in FY 2003

**122**  
EASEMENTS MONITORED

**9,595**  
ACRES MONITORED

**9**  
COOPERATING LOCAL LAND TRUSTS

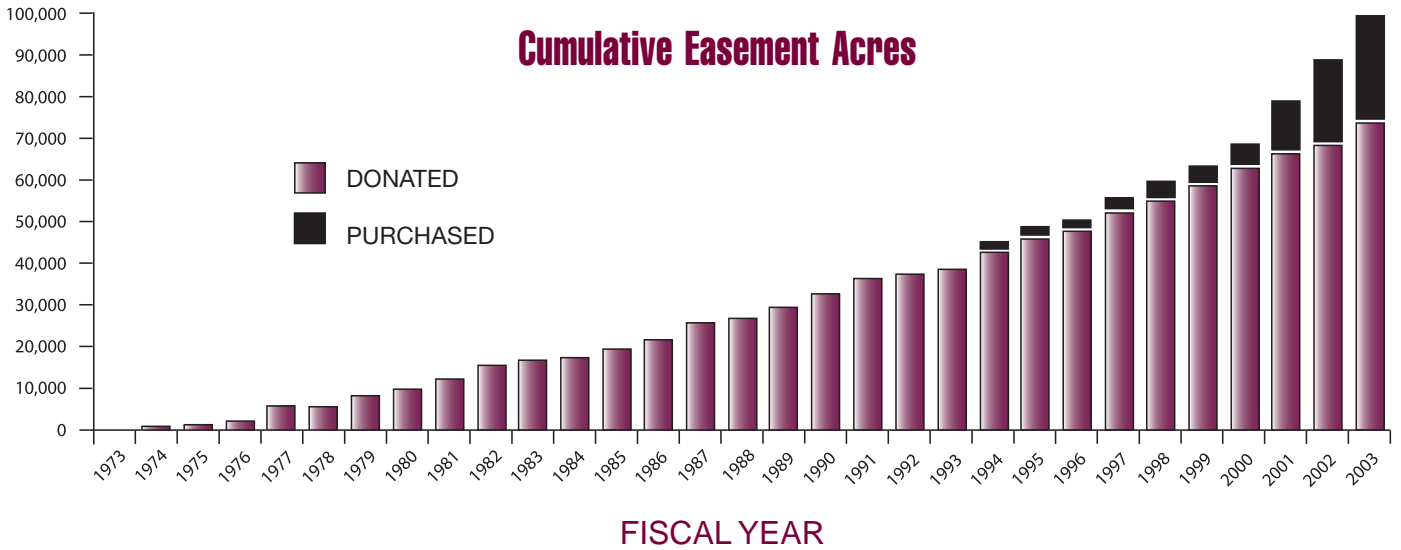
**21**  
MONITORING VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

**165**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED

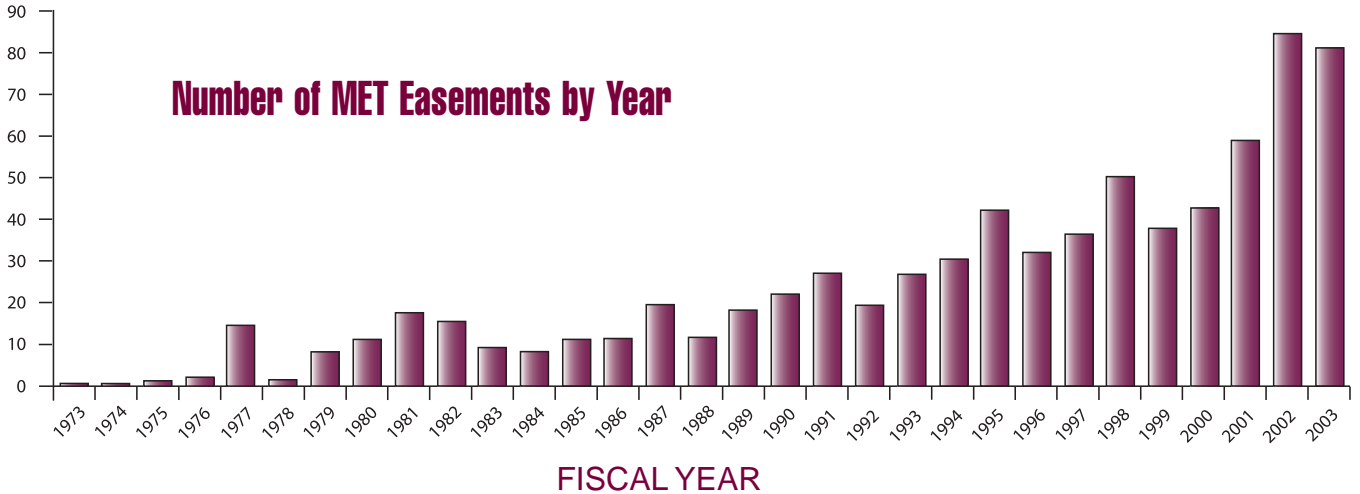
### TOTAL EASEMENT ACRES as of June 30, 2003



## Cumulative Easement Acres



## Number of MET Easements by Year





# *Legislative Update*

## **Fiscal Year 2003**

MET's approach to the legislative process is to be in the forefront of new ideas, to make new land conservation incentives available to landowners, and to refine the easement process. After the significant passage of the Maryland Income Tax Credit in 2001, MET's legislative activity has been relatively restrained in deference to the State's fiscal challenges. In 2002 a number of bills concerning expansion and transferability of the Tax Credit as well as property tax assessment of easement properties were introduced and withdrawn. In 2003, no new bills were introduced, however MET was successful in having language appear in the Joint Chairman's Report of the Budget and Taxation Committee that recognizes the importance of MET's issues and builds support for eventual action.

During the 2003 legislative session Delegate Gordon introduced H.B. 1084 Tax Incentives and Benefits - Credits and Subtraction Modifications. This bill would have repealed several tax credits, including the recently enacted Maryland Income Tax Credit, and would have allowed income tax subtraction modifications to replace the credits. Our Board chairman testified against the bill and it was eventually defeated.

Looking forward to the 2004 legislative session, three pieces of legislation to benefit both existing grantors and future easement donors are in the works. Two of these bills aim to amend the Maryland State Income Tax Credit. The first would allow any unused portion of the credit to be transferred (given or sold) to another Maryland taxpayer. The purpose of this provision is to increase the incentive to donate conservation ease-

ments for landowners not able to take full advantage of the current tax credit themselves.

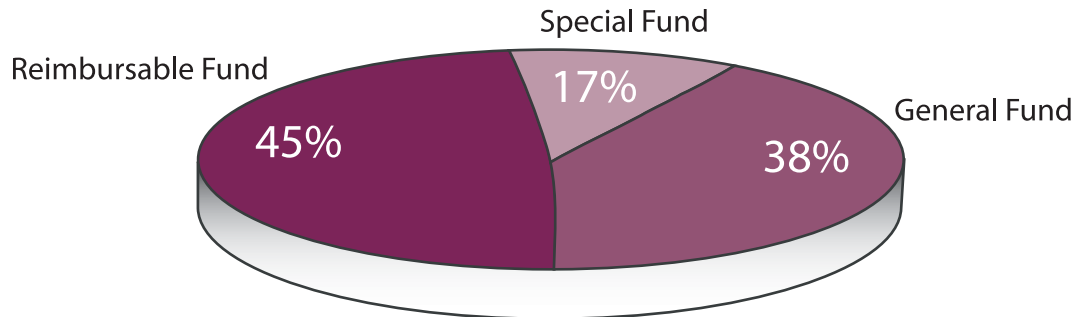
The second piece of legislation to be introduced attempts to correct an unintended consequence of the original Maryland Income Tax Credit law. It would enable county governments to enact local legislation to give a county income tax credit for land preservation. Currently, when a property owner claims the State income tax credit, the amount deducted from their federal income tax must be added into the amount of Maryland tax owed. In practice, this increases the amount of the piggyback tax owed to the county of residence and decreases the amount of the donor's credit. This provision would give a county the option of offsetting this situation with a local tax credit.

The third bill is a direct follow-up of the legislation regarding long-term property tax assessment that was introduced and withdrawn in the 2002 legislative session. This bill would govern the way MET-protected land on which an easement has been donated is assessed after the expiration of the 15-year property tax credit. At present this type of easement property receives a 100% property tax credit for 15 years on the unimproved acreage. The bill would require the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation to assess this land at the agricultural use tax rate, regardless of whether the land is farmed. The purpose of this bill is to recognize the long-term public benefit of MET donated easements and to ensure that a landowner is not unduly burdened in later years by their gift of permanent conservation of their property.

# Appropriations Statement

## FISCAL YEAR 2003

Number of Authorized Positions	10.70
Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	\$593,378
Total Operating Expenses (includes grants, contractual services, communications, travel, equipment, supplies and materials)	759,511
Total Expenditure	1,380,126
<b>FUND SOURCES</b>	
Net General Fund Expenditure	528,611
Special Fund Expenditure	234,575
Reimbursable Fund Expenditure	616,940
TOTAL	1,380,126



# Keep Maryland Beautiful

Since 1986, the Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) program, funded by the State Highway Administration, has been active in funding voluntary activities and achievements by school groups, civic and community organizations that address environmental issues. "These projects have significantly benefited Maryland's natural environment," says Ellen Kelly, Committee chairperson. As part of the KMB program, the Maryland Environmental Trust annually accepts applications for the Margaret Rosch Jones Award and the Bill James Environmental Grant for projects that focus on environmental education.

## Margaret Rosch Jones Award

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award grants a sum of up to \$2,000 to voluntary non-profit groups or communities that show continuing plans for a project demonstrating a basic understanding and resolution of an environmental issue. Through this award, which is bestowed in memory of the Executive Director and moving spirit of KMB for many years, the Trust hopes to remind citizens of her devotion, energy, and ingenuity. Applicants must have been actively participating in educating their community and/or succeeded in eliminating or reducing the causes of a local environmental problem.

The FY2003 winners of the Jones Award were the Baltimore-Linwood Community Association of Baltimore County (now known as the Patterson Park Neighborhood Association), Herrington Manor State Park of Garrett County, Friends of Mount Vernon Place of Baltimore City, and the Rockville Tree Project/Tremendous Maryland of Montgomery County. Volunteers with these groups planted trees, conducted clean up and beautification projects.

## Bill James Environmental Grant

The Bill James Environmental Grants provide up to \$1,000 each to proposed environmental education projects by non-profit youth groups. The objectives of these grants, given in memory of William S. James, who drafted legislation to create the Trust, are as follows: (1) encourage a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for the environment; (2) stimulate a better understanding of environmental issues; (3) aid in the elimination or reduction of a local environmental problem; (4) encourage education regarding growth management – the protection of rural areas and sensitive resources and discouragement of sprawling development patterns.

The FY2003 winner of the Bill James Grant was the 4-H Camp of Queen Anne's County. A workshop series on marsh grasses in the waters off Wye Island is planned — including the usefulness of marsh grasses for nutrient buffering, as habitat for fish and food for ducks, fish, shrimp and snails. They will use grant funds to purchase enough grasses for 60 youth to plant and make a significant impact on the environment in that area.





# Local Land Trusts

## Locals Extend Their Conservation Reach

Fiscal year 2003 saw the birth of two new local land trusts in Maryland, bringing the State's total to 54 non-profit land trusts. NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, modeled after an organization of the same name in Chicago, seeks to protect open space in neighborhoods that were built before open space was required of new development plans. Crownsville Neighborhood Land Trust in Anne Arundel County will buy or accept donations of undeveloped land and conservation easements in the Crownsville area. While not a new organization, the Patuxent Conservation Corps recently added land protection to its stewardship activities.

This year also witnessed the formation of a new land trust association – the State's third. The Baltimore County Land Trust Association, whose member organizations include The Manor Conservancy, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Long Green Valley Conservancy, Land Preservation Trust, Prettyboy-Mason Dixon Conservancy, Valleys Planning Council and Baltimore County was formed to enhance the professionalism of member land trusts, to share monitoring expertise, and to extend outreach efforts to more landowners.

Established land trusts such as the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and the Lower Shore Land Trust maintained a brisk pace of joint conservation easement work with MET, protecting 5,537 new acres of farm and forest land in most of the Eastern Shore counties. In addition, ESLC acquired in-fee 341 acres in Dorchester County from Chesapeake Forest Products, which they transferred to the Department of Natural Resources. Emerging land trusts continued to expand their network of landowner contacts and also brought in joint easement donations. This year these partnerships involved the North County Land Trust (Anne Arundel County), the Conservancy for Charles County, the Cecil Land Trust, the Patuxent Tide-

water Land Trust (St. Mary's County), Land Preservation Trust (Baltimore County), and the Howard County Conservancy.

During this period of increased easement purchase statewide, many local land trusts found a role in encouraging private landowners to sell easements to State easement purchase programs such as the Rural Legacy Program (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) and the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). In some cases local land trusts were sponsors or co-sponsors of Rural Legacy Areas - the identified target areas for that effort. In many cases, MET co-held easements acquired through this program.

### LAND TRUST

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy  
Cecil Land Trust  
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy  
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust  
Long Green Valley Conservancy  
Manor Conservancy  
Land Preservation Trust

### RURAL LEGACY AREA

Agricultural Security Corridor  
Fair Hill  
Gunpowder  
Huntersville  
Long Green Manor  
Piney Run

Local land trusts also acquired easements that they hold independent of MET or any government agency. These are usually properties that are important locally but may not meet the eligibility criteria of MET or rank very highly in the easement purchase programs in the State. This year, the Land Preservation Trust (Baltimore County), the Scenic Rivers Land Trust (Anne Arundel County), the North County Land Trust (Anne Arundel County), Greater Sandy Spring Open Space (Montgomery County), and Long Green Valley Conservancy (Baltimore County) were among the groups that made this type of commitment.

### LOCAL LAND TRUST INCENTIVE GRANTS

Each year, under its Land Trust Assistance Program, MET awards grants to local land trusts to increase their education and outreach activities in pursuit of conserva-

tion easement donations. These small grants are usually targeted towards land trusts that demonstrate easement solicitation skills operating in regions of significant land conservation potential. This year four grants were awarded to each of the following land trusts: Conservancy for Charles County, Catoctin Land Trust (Frederick County), Cecil Land Trust and Carroll County Land Trust.

## Who's Who in Maryland Land Trusts

Maryland is currently served by 54 local land trusts and three land trust associations (indicated in bold). MET serves as mentor and partner to these organizations, working either together or independently on specific easement projects and overall conservation strategies. Many MET easements are co-held by local land trusts, providing a dual layer of land protection. Consult the new website, [www.conservemd.org](http://www.conservemd.org), for complete contact information. Find the land trust in your area to discuss conservation opportunities.

American Chestnut Land Trust	Peg Niland	410-586-1570
Annapolis Conservancy Board	Steve Carr	410-263-7949
<b>Baltimore County Land Trust Association</b>	<b>Ann Jones</b>	<b>410-461-6917</b>
Bay Ridge Trust	Dan Wells	410-626-0342
Black Swamp Creek	Joanne Flynn	301-888-1281
Broad Creek Conservancy	Marian DiLorenzo	301-292-6318
Calvert Farmland Trust	Susan Hance-Wells	410-414-5070
Carroll County Land Trust	Ned Cueman	410-848-8247
Carrollton Manor Land Trust	Nancy Bodmer	301-662-0777
Catoctin Land Trust	Sam T. Castleman III	301-271-2823
Caves Valley Land Trust	Mitchell Kolkun	410-244-7656
Cecil Land Trust	William Kilby	410-658-6186
Central Maryland Heritage League	Dean Considine	301-371-6971
Charm City Land Trusts	Jim Kelly	410-366-0922
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage	Chris Pupke	410-822-5100
Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary	Dianne Pearce	301-390-7010
Conservancy for Charles County	Vivian Mills	301-283-2410
Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust	Bob Boxwell	410-414-3311

Crownsville Neighborhood Land Trust	Scott Hymes	410-923-7171
<b>Council of Anne Arundel Land Trusts</b>		
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	Rob Etgen	410-827-9756
Franklinton Land Trust	Fred Worthington	410-448-3383
Greater Sandy Spring Green Space	John Chirtea	301-774-3333
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy	Charlie Conkin	410-661-1233
Harford Land Trust	David Miller	410-836-2103
Harpers Ferry Conservancy	Paul Rosa	304 535-9961
<b>Holly Neck Conservation Association</b>	<b>Jim Mitchell</b>	<b>410-238-2299</b>
Howard County Conservancy	Lynne Nemeth	410-465-8877
K&S Wildlife Land Trust	Terry Kuhn	301-241-4747
Kensington Land Trust	Helen Wilkes	301-933-8756
Land Preservation Trust	Edward A. Halle Jr.	410-771-9900
Land Trust International	Shantini Senanayake	301-345-1060
Long Green Valley Conservancy	John Canoles	410-592-6752
Lower Shore Land Trust	Nancy Whitlock	410-641-3019
Magothy River Land Trust	Melvin Bender	410-974-0756
Manor Conservancy	James Constable	410-659-1315
Maryland Mountain Trust	Marcia Simmers	301-746-8989
<b>Mid. Maryland Land Trust Association</b>	<b>Paul Gilligan</b>	<b>301-834-7851</b>
Mt. Washington Preservation Trust	Karin Brown	410-887-3480
Neighbor Space of Baltimore County	Ruth Baisdon	gccc@bcpl.net
North County Land Trust	Rebecca Kolberg	202-261-1614
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust	Gita van Heerden	202-236-1729
Patuxent Watershed Land Trust	Ray Puzio	410-418-5222
Potomac Conservancy	Matthew Logan	301-608-1188
Prettyboy Mason Dixon Conservancy	Mike Hollins	410-374-1597
Prettyboy Watershed Preservation Society	Sharon Bailey	410-239-3524
Rockburn Land Trust	Burnett Chalmers	410-467-7774
Save Historic Antietam Foundation	Tom Clemens	301-790-2800
Severn River Land Trust	Sandra Parks-Trusz	410-424-4000
South County Conservation Trust	Patricia Haddon	703-684-2470
South Mountain Heritage Trust	Phil Stanley	301-834-4337
Southern Calvert Land Trust	Kenneth R. Spring	springk@nhlbi.nih.gov
Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy	Elizabeth P. Kapsch	301-563-3407
Tree-Land Foundation	Robert Martin	301-563-3407
Western Shore Conservancy	Pam Cooper	301-390-0797
Woodberry Land Trust	Janis E. Danforth	410-516-8853
Woodland Committee Land Trust	Leonard Kerpelman	410-367-8855

## MET Board of Trustees

### TRUSTEES

Royce Hanson, *Chair*  
Perry Kapsch, *Vice Chair*  
John Murphy, *Treasurer*  
Edward A. Halle Jr., *Secretary*  
Doris Blazek-White  
Gerald E. Brock  
K. King Burnett  
Brice M. Clagett  
David L. Greene  
Constance Lieder  
John C. Murphy  
Henry A. Virts

### EX-OFFICIO

Governor Parris Glendening  
Delegated Mary-Dulany James  
Senator Roy Dyson

### TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Former Senator James Clark  
Ajax Eastman

### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Peter Vorac  
Ann H. Jones



The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Environmental Trust has 15 members, designated by the enabling legislation, and several Area Representatives, authorized by the bylaws. The Area Representatives sit with the board and advise on conservation issues within their regions. Three of the Trustees are Ex-Officio. There are currently two Trustees Emeritus and two Area Representatives.

### ROYCE HANSON, Chair

A political scientist and educator, he is a resident of Montgomery County who joined the board in 2000. He is Visiting Professor at University of Maryland at Baltimore County where he is in the Policy Science Graduate Program, and Interim Director of the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education. He has been very active in his community and now focuses much energy on farmland preservation and watershed protection. He is Co-chair of the Legacy Open Space Committee in Montgomery County.

### PERRY KAPSCH, Vice Chair

Joined the board in 1998, after serving as an Area Representative. A resident of Montgomery County, she is both an historic and environmental preservationist. She is an historic preservation planner with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, President of Historic Medley District, Inc. and a founder of For A Rural Montgomery and of Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy.

### JOHN C. MURPHY, Treasurer

An attorney who lives and practices in Baltimore City, he is a longtime board member, since 1978, and he has served as both Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He is a former Assistant Attorney General for Maryland and an activist for historic preservation, community conservation, neighborhood planning and farmland protection.

### EDWARD A. HALLE, Jr., Secretary

An attorney from Baltimore County, he joined the board in 2000. He has been personally active in preserving land through the Land Preservation Trust, Inc. and Piney Run Rural Legacy Area. He is with the law firm of Fowley & Beckley and is an avid horseman. He has created several coalitions of investors to purchase, protect with easements, and then resell major parcels of agricultural land threatened by intense development.

### DORIS BLAZEK-WHITE

Attorney and resident of Talbot County, she came to MET in 1998 after serving on the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy Board. A partner in Covington & Burling, she brings exceptional knowledge and experience in land preservation, estates, and the environment. She is a graduate of Goucher College and Georgetown University Law Center.

## **GERALD E. BROCK**

A resident of Howard County, he joined the board in 1999. He is a consultant in community development. For more than 30 years, he has worked as a senior executive for community master planning and development on two of the most successful new towns in the U.S.: Columbia, Maryland, and Irvine, California. He has demonstrated major concern for balancing growth with respect for the natural environment.

## **K. KING BURNETT**

From Wicomico County, he joined the board in 1971, has served two terms as Chairman, and originally proposed the conservation easement program. He is a partner in the law firm of Webb, Burnett and Jackson, in Salisbury and lives on a farm with an easement he donated to MET. For many years, he has been a leading proponent in Maryland for conservation, farmland protection, land use management, planning and environmental stewardship. He also serves on the Board of the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws on which he serves as a representative of the State of Maryland.

## **BRICE M. CLAGETT**

A lawyer who lives in Anne Arundel County, he is one of the trustees with deep concern for both historic and environmental protection. He is senior counsel with Covington & Burling and has served with MET since 1978. He was MET Chairman from 1985-1989 and was Chairman of the Maryland Historical Trust from 1972-1978. He brings a wealth of legal expertise about easements balanced by extensive knowledge of Maryland, its history and politics.

## **DAVID L. GREENE**

A farmer from Baltimore County, he is a retired University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Carroll County Extension Director. He has first-hand experience in agriculture and the issues related to production, practice and preservation. He has been a member of the Carroll County Land Trust and is currently on the Baltimore County Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

## **CONSTANCE LIEDER**

She has been on the board since 1989 and served as Chair from 1993-2001. She is a planning consultant, resident of Baltimore City and for ten years served as Maryland Secretary of State Planning, 1979-1989. She is Past President of the American Institute of Planners and has been on the boards of American Planning Association, National Housing Conference and Women Executives in State Government. In addition to being an ardent conservationist, she has focused much of her career on rebuilding urban areas, a necessary corollary to preserving natural resources.

## **HENRY A. VIRTS**

Newly appointed to the MET board in 2002, he retired in February 2001 as the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture. In this capacity he served with the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Director of Planning as the third member of the Rural Legacy Board since its inception. He now farms in St. Mary's County. The home farm, Trent Hall, was protected by an MET easement in 1978, and a contiguous farm, Washington Creek, is preserved in perpetuity by the MALPF program.

## **AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

### **PETER VORAC**

A management analyst and farmer from Frederick County, he is active professionally in farmland protection. He is a land preservation specialist with the County Department of Planning and Zoning and a member of the South Mountain Heritage Society and Mid-Maryland Land Trust. He is working to increase funding and tax credits for county and state land conservation efforts in order to maintain a strong agricultural resource industry.

### **ANN H. JONES**

A professional planner, she is from Howard County, is a member of the Howard County Conservancy and works for the Valleys Planning Council in Baltimore County as Rural Legacy Coordinator. Her concern is maintaining a viable agricultural base, directing development to appropriate urban areas and funding necessary infrastructure to accommodate it.



# Staff



John Hutson, *Natural Resources Planner*



Jim Highsaw, *Easement Program Manager*



Nick Williams, *Local Land Trust Coordinator*



Dorothy Smith, *Secretary*



Lisa Holmes, *Secretary*



Diane Chasse, *Natural Resources Planner*



Barbara Levin, *Natural Resources Planner*



Jonathan Chapman, *Monitoring Coordinator*



Shirley Massenburg, *Administrator*



John Bernstein, *Director*

*photos: Shirley Massenburg*

*MET 2003 Annual Report written and compiled by Donna Mennitto*

**MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**



*We have been successful  
if the conserved land itself  
enables meaningful work to exist  
in an honorable relationship to nature.*

– Peter Forbes

*Maryland Environmental Trust  
100 Community Place 1st Floor  
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023*

*[www.dnr.state.md.us/met](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met)  
[www.conservemd.org](http://www.conservemd.org)*

*410-514-7900    877-514-7900*