



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2010

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Maryland Environmental Trust
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Cover Photo: Andelot Farm, Kent County

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



During Fiscal Year 2010, protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay continued to be a focus of not only the conservation community in Maryland, but also of the federal government. President Obama issued a sweeping Executive Order in May 2010, which recognizes the Bay as a national treasure and calls on the federal government to lead a renewed effort to restore the nation's largest estuary and its watershed. In October 2009,

Maryland Senator Ben Cardin introduced a wide-ranging restoration bill. These federal efforts highlighted one area of progress - private land conservation - that has been and remains a consistent, key strategy in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay.

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) continued to make the Chesapeake Bay a priority in 2010 as it accepted its largest ever conservation easement donation on a 2,900-acre property in Kent County. The Andelot Farm conservation easement will forever protect water quality and riparian wildlife habitat along an astounding 9.2 miles of the Chesapeake Bay, Churn Creek, Tims Creek, Worton Creek, and Still Pond. This exciting project is a testament to both MET's work to protect the Bay and the desire of Maryland landowners to ensure a legacy of open space and clean water for future generations.

Andelot Farm is just one of many impressive properties protected in FY2010. With the help of more than 50 vibrant land trusts in Maryland, MET has conserved over 125,000 acres on 1,015 properties statewide as of June 30, 2010, making us one of the most successful land trusts nationwide. But we couldn't have achieved so much alone. Our progress rests on Maryland's network of land trust partners. Our partnership with these groups combines the best of both worlds to secure private conservation easements. Land trusts bring intimate knowledge of and enthusiasm for their communities' environmental and cultural assets, while MET's Land Trust Assistance Program provides technical assistance, funding, and training.

So, while a difficult economic climate continues to affect us all, MET, together with our land trust partners, can weather the storm and have a significant impact on land protection in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We continue to emphasize the importance of private land conservation as both a cost-effective and successful option to permanently protect Maryland's open space, working farms and important natural resources.

Elizabeth Buxton

HISTORY OF MET

MET was established by statute in 1967 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.”

Created as a state-sponsored entity, MET is both a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and governed by a private Board of Trustees. This unique arrangement allows MET the resources and flexibility necessary to be a highly successful and trusted land conservation partner.

MET accepted its first easement donation in 1972, at a time when land protection and conservation easements were still in their infancy. Its signature easement donation program was established in the early-1970's, and since that time MET has grown as a national leader in the field. Today, MET is one of the largest land trusts in the nation and, by the close of FY2010, has permanently protected more than 125,000 acres of land on 1,015 properties statewide. Over the past 40 years, MET has expanded into other program areas, in order to increase the capacity for land conservation in Maryland:

- *Stewardship Program*, to protect and enforce existing easements
- *Local Land Trust Assistance Program*, which has helped create, nurture and support over 50 local land trusts statewide
- *Small Grants Programs*, including Keep Maryland Beautiful and the Janice Hollman Grant
- *Land Trust Grant Fund* – revolving loan fund for easement or fee-simple purchase
- *Training and Education* - MET sponsors an annual conference and periodic trainings to keep its land trust partners current on the latest innovations in the field.

MET has a long history of working with more than 50 local land conservation organizations to protect natural, cultural, and historical resources in Maryland.

In FY 2010 the Board of Trustees implemented a new committee structure to better manage its goals, functions and workload. Current committees of the Board include the Executive Committee, the Easement Committee, the Finance Committee, the Grants Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the Accreditation / Policy Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Local Land Trust Advisory Committee.



MET Staff (L to R): Elizabeth Buxton, Jon Chapman, Michelle Johnson, Carole Simon, Adam Block, Ann Carlson, Megan Sines, Beki Howey, Joan Lally, Lisa Holmes, John Hutson, Kristen Maneval.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

From the forested mountain tops of Garrett County to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland boasts an ecological diversity and scenic beauty rivaled by few states in the nation. MET works with private property owners to permanently protect these valuable natural resources with conservation easements. A conservation easement is a legal agreement entered into voluntarily by a landowner and a government entity or land trust that permanently limits the uses of the land in order to protect its scenic, agricultural, woodland, wetland and habitat conservation values. An easement allows landowners to continue to own, use, and manage their property, and sell it or pass it on to their heirs. Conservation easements offer great flexibility and are tailored to fit a landowner's vision and goals for the property. The donation of a conservation easement is a reflection of a landowner's commitment to conserving scenic vistas and water quality for public benefit, ensuring the future viability of farming and forestry, and preserving the rural character and natural beauty of communities all across Maryland.

In July 2009 MET implemented a new model deed of conservation easement. The new model easement represents the cutting edge of easement drafting and incorporates the very best research, case law, IRS guidance, stewardship lessons, and decades of experience. Landowners and land trusts alike will find the easement comprehensive, well organized, and approachable. The new MET model conservation easement is the result of an open and inclusive 18-month effort of MET staff, the Office of Attorney General and the MET Board of Trustees. Highlights of the new model easement include a clearer, more user friendly organization, a new section dedicated to the description of conservation attributes and conservation purposes that closely follows IRS language, new definitions for previously undefined terms, and simplified condemnation and termination language.

In FY 2010, MET protected a total of 4,736.6 acres on 26 properties statewide. Accounting for 2,894 acres of this total was the easement on Andelot Farm in Kent County, which is the largest easement donation in the history of MET. Sixteen of the 26 easements, or 62%, are co-held by MET's land trust partners.

Easement Acreage by County for FY 2010	
County	Acres
Anne Arundel	316.8
Baltimore	64.9
Carroll	33.1
Dorchester	419.5
Frederick	407.5
Montgomery	15.8
Kent	3,018.8
Somerset	150.6
Talbot	205.6
Washington	28.9
Wicomico	75
Total	4,736.6

WESTERN REGION

A total of 470 acres were permanently protected in the western region in FY2010. Of the ten properties protected, four are located in Washington County, four in Frederick County, and two in Carroll County. Five of the 10 easements are co-held with local land trust partners, including the Catoctin Land Trust and Carroll County Land Trust. A total of 250 acres of Targeted Ecological Areas, 166 acres of green infrastructure, and 90 acres of Ecologically Significant Areas were protected through easements in the western region in FY10.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy donated four easements on 29 acres of property in Washington County. The easements protect forestland and wildlife habitat, and provide a scenic buffer along the Appalachian Trail through South Mountain State Park.

MET and the Catoctin Land Trust worked cooperatively to protect three easements in Frederick County. The 188.4-acre Fedak easement protects agricultural and forest lands, including ninety acres which are part of the Cunningham Falls Ecologically Significant Area. The 103.6-acre Dustin property in Middletown protects scenic views, agricultural and forest lands, as well as water quality along Catoctin Creek.



The Catoctin Creek runs across the Dustin property in Frederick County.

MET was added as a co-grantee on a previously existing easement in Emmitsburg, which protects a tributary to the Monocacy River watershed along with productive agricultural and forestlands. MET also worked with the Zittle family to protect wildlife habitat, scenic views, and water quality on their property south of Thurmont.

Partnering with the Carroll County Land Trust, MET protected a total of 33.1 acres owned by the Knobloch family in Millers. The easement protects productive forest and agricultural land and ensures that the property's multiple parcels will be kept in common ownership in the future.

CENTRAL REGION

A total of 80.7 acres were permanently protected in the central region of the state in FY2010. Of the four properties protected, three are located in Baltimore County and one in Montgomery County.

In Baltimore County, 64.9 acres were permanently protected. Two generations of the Bolton family protected 35.4 acres located in the Greenspring Valley National Register Historic District and in the County-designated Valleys Preservation Area. The easement eliminated the potential for 31 houses to be built on the site and will allow the landowners to maintain the equestrian and agricultural uses of the property. The Hopkins family donated an easement on their 29.5-acre property to MET and the Land Preservation Trust. The easement protects agricultural land and equestrian uses and adds to a block of MET easements in the area totaling nearly 500 acres in size.

A multi-year cooperative agreement with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), in which MET was charged with targeting, soliciting, negotiating, and

holding conservation easements to be purchased by WSSC, began to bear fruit in FY2010. The Polisar family sold a conservation easement on their 15.8-acre property in Burtonsville. The easement protects an unnamed tributary of the Rocky Gorge Reservoir with a 100-foot vegetative buffer and protects habitat for forest interior dwelling bird species.

SOUTHERN REGION

A total of 316.8 acres were permanently protected on two properties in the southern region in FY2010. The protection of these two properties, both located in Anne Arundel County, led to the permanent preservation of 139 acres of green infrastructure.

The Clagetts fulfilled a family legacy by permanently protecting the 255-acre Holly Hill property in July 2009. The property, originally called Holland's Hills, was first surveyed in 1663. Brice McAdoo Clagett purchased the property in 1968. Mr. Clagett, past MET Chairman and long-time trustee, gifted preservation easements to the Maryland Historical Trust in 1977 and 1978 to protect the many historical resources of the property, including the original house which dates to 1699. Mr. Clagett's will directed that his heirs subject the entire property to a conservation easement to be held by MET. The easement protects scenic views along Friendship Road, requires nearly 160 acres of forest to be responsibly managed under a forest stewardship plan, and calls for a 100-foot buffer along Hall Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River.

Micheal Pistole and Richard Bradshaw protected a 62-acre wooded property located in Crownsville with a conservation easement in December 2009. The property is centerpiece to the high wooded ridgelines as seen from Defense Highway, the South River and

even US 50. The easement protects forested habitat for forest interior dwelling birds and requires a forest stewardship plan to guide the management of the woods. Additionally, the easement protects water quality and riparian habitat along Bacon Ridge Branch, a tributary of the South River. The easement is co-held with the Scenic Rivers Land Trust.

EASTERN REGION

A total of 3,869.5 acres were permanently protected in the eastern region in FY2010. Of the 10 properties protected, three are located in Talbot County, two in Dorchester County, three in Kent County, one in Wicomico County, and one in Somerset County. Nine of the ten easements are co-held with land trust partners, including the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, the Lower Shore Land Trust, and Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage. A total of 1,281 acres of green infrastructure, 494.5 acres of Targeted Ecological Area and 192.9 acres of Ecologically Significant Areas were protected through easements in the eastern region in FY10.



Agricultural buildings on Andelot Farm.

In Kent County, three conservation easements were completed for a total of 3,018.8 acres. MET's largest conservation easement, covering 2,894 acres, forever protects the scenic open space, agricultural and forestland known as Andelot Farm. The property includes approximately 1,087 acres

of forest, 1,692 acres of tilled land and 50 acres of freshwater ponds. The easement will also preserve a 200-foot vegetative buffer strip along 9.2 miles of the Chesapeake Bay, Churn Creek, Tims Creek, Worton Creek and Still Pond, protecting water quality and riparian wildlife habitat. In addition, the property contains high quality habitat for several threatened and endangered species, including the Delmarva fox squirrel. MET co-holds the easement with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

Among the 419.5 acres protected in Dorchester County was a property owned by Waterfowl Habitat, LLC. This 163.2-acre property is undeveloped salt marsh and part of an intact coastal wetland ecosystem which includes Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area, the largest parcel of publicly-owned tidal wetlands in Maryland. Situated along Thorofare Creek, the property is within a National Audubon Society designated Important Bird Area (IBA). The Southern Dorchester County IBA has “globally important” status.

In Talbot County, 205.6 acres were permanently protected. The Mortons conserved 94.8 acres of woodlands on Presquile Road. The property will remain as it has for generations, providing habitat for wildlife and enjoyment for its owners and those traveling scenic Presquile Road. The woodlands are home to Delmarva fox squirrel, a state and federally listed endangered species, as well as forest interior dwelling bird species. The property is adjacent to Pickering Creek Audubon Center, a sanctuary of the Chesapeake Audubon Society, and a large block of lands protected by MET conservation easements. MET co-holds the easement with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

In Somerset County, the Reinhardt family donated a 150.6-acre easement. The easement protects approximately 1,150 feet of scenic frontage along Mt. Vernon Road and approximately 4,000 feet of scenic water frontage along Harper Creek, a tributary of Monie Bay. The forest on the property is home to Delmarva fox squirrel as well as forest interior dwelling bird species. MET co-holds the easement with the Lower Shore Land Trust.

In Wicomico County, a 75-acre conservation easement was donated by the Morison family. This property includes a small homestead, approximately 50 acres of agricultural land, and approximately 25 acres of forest. The easement permanently protects views from the Blue Crab Maryland Scenic Byway. The property also contains habitat or important buffers for three species of concern tracked by DNR’s Natural Heritage Program. MET co-holds the easement with the Lower Shore Land Trust.



An autumn scene on the Morton property in Talbot County.

CELEBRATION OF 1,000 EASEMENTS

On Saturday, October 3, more than 125 guests joined MET in a celebration of 1,000 conservation easements on more than 122,000 acres of forest, farmland and scenic open space across the state of Maryland. The milestone event was held at historic Holly Hill in southern Anne Arundel County, a property protected in FY2010.

Keynote speaker Rand Wentworth, President of the Land Trust Alliance, acknowledged MET's tremendous accomplishment and its leadership role in the land conservation movement in Maryland. He also thanked landowners who had donated conservation easements on their properties to protect them from sprawl and development. Wentworth indicated that MET ranks as one of the largest land trusts in the country.

Special guests included Comptroller Peter Franchot, who praised the foresight of William S. James, President of the Maryland Senate (1963–1974) and author of 1967 legislation that created MET. Other presenters included, Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael Busch and John Griffin, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, who remarked on the important role MET plays in land protection in Maryland.

Guests enjoyed locally grown food, wine and local seafood, plus a rare opportunity to tour the house and gardens at Holly Hill, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally named Holland's Hills, the property was surveyed in 1663 and purchased in 1665 by Richard Harrison, a Quaker Planter and ship owner. The house was built in three stages between 1698 and 1733 and is one of the largest and best preserved examples of the Medieval Transitional style of architectural in Maryland.



(L to R) MET Trustee K. King Burnett, DNR Secretary John Griffin, and LTA President Rand Wentworth enjoy lively conversation at the Holly Hill celebration. Photo Courtesy of Rick Lippenholz.



(L to R) Delegate Virginia Clagett, J. Rodney Little, Director of the Maryland Historical Trust, Brooke Clagett, daughter of Brice Clagett. Photo Courtesy of Rick Lippenholz.

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING

The donation of a conservation easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust is a major investment in the continued health, beauty, and enjoyment of Maryland's open spaces and the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting one's property does not stop with the signing of the conservation easement however. MET and cooperating local land trust staff and volunteers continue to look after the land on an ongoing basis, through regular monitoring of conservation properties. Stewardship involves a larger set of issues, which can include addressing landowner questions or concerns or requests for MET to approve various proposed structures or activities on the property. MET works with local land trusts in the Maryland Land Trust Alliance to ensure that stewardship and monitoring procedures comply with or exceed national guidelines.

In FY2010 MET monitored 228 easement and fee properties covering 25,293 acres, which represents 22.6% of the Trust's easement portfolio. Monitoring visits are conducted in order to document current conditions and assess compliance with easement requirements. During FY2010, 18 volunteers monitored 53 properties totaling 3,574 acres, supporting nearly one quarter of MET's monitoring effort.

This effort represents a doubling of volunteer monitoring compared to the year prior.

As part of its Local Land Trust Assistance Program, MET staff assists land trusts with the inspection of co-held easement properties, enforcement of easement terms, and record keeping and documentation protocols. During FY2010 MET staff assisted land trusts with the monitoring of 41 properties, and land trusts monitored an additional 18 properties on their own.

Stewardship and Land Trust Assistance staff presented a training session for 7 monitoring volunteers on April 24, 2010, held at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County.

At the end of FY 2010, MET was tracking approximately 40 active stewardship issues, enforcement matters, and violations on easement properties. Stewardship staff presented ten requests for approval to the MET Board of Trustees. Of these, four were for home sites, subdivision of lots for residences, or both. All four were approved. The other six requests were for various activities on easement or fee owned properties, including special events, bridge replacements, and renovation of protected structures.



Volunteers are trained to monitor easement properties at an April 2010 training event.

LAND TRUST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Land Trust Assistance Program (LTAP) supports the work of over 50 land trusts working in Maryland to build the quality and effectiveness of their land conservation programs. The LTAP supports Maryland's land trusts by providing a network for shared expertise in land conservation, and by promoting collaborative efforts and national programs to support land conservation efforts.

Land trusts are not-for-profit corporations designed to protect land 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 list of Maryland's land trusts can be found online: www.dnr.state.md.us/met/landtrustslists.pdf.

The program provides:

- Technical Assistance through information and guidance on running an ethical and legal land trust under the Land Trust Alliance *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.
- Training events, including an annual statewide land trust conference, regional events, and topic workshops.
- Support of land trusts to encourage organizational growth, sustainable stewardship programs, and effective partnerships with local jurisdictions and community leaders.
- Jan Hollmann Grants Program to further the work of land trusts.
- The Aileen Hughes Award for recognition of land trust leadership and achievement.

- Targeting of Conservation Easements – information on state land conservation priorities and assistance with strategic conservation planning.
- Assessing Your Organization – organizational support to measure implementation of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and identify areas of strength and needed growth.
- Conservation Easements and Land Conservation – new easements and easement amendments.

The LTAP hosted several workshops during FY2010 to train land trusts to use the new MET model deed of conservation easement. Additionally, the LTAP and Baltimore Green Space hosted a workshop titled “Thinking Small: The Challenges and Opportunities for Urban and Volunteer Land Trusts” at Homestead Harvest Community Gardens in September 2009 to share experiences of working in smaller-scale land preservation. The LTAP worked with the Lower Shore Land Trust in June 2010 to conduct an organizational assessment a detailed assessment of organizational progress toward implementing Land Trust Standards and Practices.

The LTAP plays an important role in administering the Maryland Land Trust Alliance (MLTA), an informal association of national, state, regional and local land conservation organizations working in Maryland. The MLTA assists with the planning of the MLTA annual conference.

The LTAP is funded by an annual grant from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Coastal Program from the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and the National and Atmospheric Administration.

Maryland Land Trusts and Land Conservation Organizations

STATEWIDE

American Farmland Trust
Biophilia Foundation, Inc.
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
Maryland Alliance for Greenway
Improvement and Conservation
(MAGIC)
Patuxent Conservation Corps, Inc.
The Conservation Fund
The Humane Society of the United
States Wildlife Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy
Trust for Public Land

CENTRAL REGION

Baltimore Green Space
Baltimore Harbor Watershed
Association
Caves Valley Land Trust
Charm City Land Trusts, Inc.
Cecil Land Trust
Greater Sandy Springs Green Space, Inc.
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
Harford Land Trust, Inc.
Howard County Conservancy
Kensington Land Trust
Land Preservation Trust
Mt. Washington Preservation Society
Neighborspace of Baltimore County
Long Green Valley Land Trust
Rockburn Land Trust
The Manor Conservancy
Valleys Planning Council, Inc.

EASTERN REGION

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Lower Shore Land Trust

SOUTHERN REGION

African American Land Trust, Inc.
American Chestnut Land Trust
Annapolis Conservancy Board
Bay Land Trust
Black Swamp Creek Land Trust
Calvert Farmland Trust
Conservancy for Charles County, Inc.
Cove Point Natural Heritage
Crownsville Conservancy
Magothy River Land Trust
North County Land Trust
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
Scenic Rivers Land Trust
Southern Calvert Land Trust

WESTERN REGION

Allegheny Highlands Conservancy
Carroll County Land Trust
Carrollton Manor Land Trust
Catoctin Land Trust
Potomac Conservancy
South Mountain Heritage Society
Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy

MARYLAND LAND TRUST ALLIANCE 2010 CONFERENCE

MET hosted the annual Maryland Land Trust Alliance Conference on May 27, 2010. The event is the only statewide land conservation conference and training workshop for land trusts in Maryland. The conference was held at the Pearlstone Retreat and Conference Center in Reisterstown. With its own organic farm, trails and habitat restoration areas, the 164-acre campus was a perfect setting for inspirational and educational sessions for the 100 attendees from land conservation organizations. This conference was made possible with support from The Conservation Fund, The Trust for Public Land, and the Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

Rand Wentworth, President of the LTA, was the keynote speaker. Rand's address congratulated members of the land trust community and spoke to challenges facing conservation. LTA has worked extensively with land trusts to improve practices, introduce independent accreditation, and reform appraisal practice to grow strong and ethical land trust organizations. Rand also discussed a Conservation Defense Insurance program for land trusts to help meet costs and obligations of facing legal challenges to the permanence of conservation easements. Over 400 land trusts from 47 states have now committed over 17,000 conservation easements and fee owned parcels to the proposed conservation defense insurance program.

Educational workshops and sessions were offered on a variety of topics including fundraising, federal and state environmental policy, land-use planning and conservation, and restoration opportunities. Field trips visited local farms with restoration programs and looked at development patterns.

The link between land conservation and land use planning was examined in a workshop presented by the Maryland Department of Planning, which introduced PlanMaryland - a new planning process designed to create a better and more sustainable future for Maryland. Other workshops allowed land trusts and county governments to share experiences of connecting community and conservation and taught participants how to take advantage of opportunities to accelerate conservation locally through the Farm Bill programs.



Top: Conference presenters (L to R) Ryan Ewing, Kelly Carneal, and Sean Robertson.
Bottom: 2010 MLTA conference attendees.



AWARDS AND GRANTS

MET presents a number of grants and awards each year at the MLTA conference.

DILLON AWARD

Alverta and Louise Dillon, sisters and retired school teachers, donated a perpetual conservation easement and then bequeathed their entire Garrett County property to MET in 1984. Alverta and Louise were dedicated naturalists and were enthusiastic about conservation and enhancement of the many resources found on their land. Their generous bequest is maintained as an endowment to support the activities and mission of MET, in accordance with the wishes of the Dillon family. The Dillon Award is made annually by MET to a landowner for outstanding conservation.

The 2010 Dillon Award was presented to Dr. Keith and Lisa Marie Ghezzi of Talbot County. The Ghezzi's used their easement donation as a tool to educate and encourage others in Talbot County to do the same. The Ghezzi's are active members of the Choptank River Eastern Bay Conservancy, Master Gardeners and have contributed their time and funds to other environmentally focused non-profit organizations.



The 2010 Dillon Award is presented to Lisa Marie Ghezzi by MET Board Chairman Jim O'Connell (L) and LTA President Rand Wentworth.

After making their conservation easement donation in 2007, the Ghezzi's began a living shoreline project along 1,000 feet of Maxmore Creek, creating 25,000 square feet of new marsh from an area of failing bulkhead, dying trees, invasive species and

debris. At the very outset of the project the Ghezzi's observed one of Maryland's protected Diamondback Terrapin laying eggs on top of a newly created sand dune. With authorization from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Terrapin Institute, the Ghezzi's incubated 14 Terrapins. After eleven months of care, the Ghezzi's released those 14 healthy terrapin hatchlings back to their native habitat.

Lisa Marie Ghezzi has taken the story of the Terrapins to four elementary school classes to teach children about the Diamondback Terrapin, their protection, and how we can better care for watersheds. The Ghezzi's continue to educate themselves and others about what they can do to enhance wildlife habitat and watersheds. Future projects include a website and a children's book.

AILEEN HUGHES AWARD

MET and the Maryland Land Trust Alliance present 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 was the President of the American Chestnut Land Trust for many years. The Aileen Hughes Award is given to an individual representing a Maryland land trust for leadership, partnership and innovation in a conservation project.

The 2010 Aileen Hughes Award was given to two leaders in land conservation, Miriam Avins of Baltimore Green Space and Cathy Hudson of the Rockburn Land Trust. Ms. Avins was the moving force behind the founding of Baltimore Green Space, a land trust for Baltimore City's community gardens, pocket parks, and other open spaces created and maintained by residents. These urban oases convert blighted lots into places

of beauty and growth, bringing environmental, social, and even economic benefits to their neighborhoods and the whole city.

In 2009 her leadership led to important policy changes that will make Baltimore a greener city – for the long term. Within the context of the city’s new Office of Sustainability and Sustainability Plan, Avins worked with city agencies to create criteria and a process for selling city-owned land in use as community-managed open spaces to qualified land trusts – for \$1 per lot.



Miriam Avins is presented the 2010 Aileen Hughes Award.

Ms. Hudson led a working committee within the Rockburn Land Trust, called “Save Belmont,” to guarantee existing protection of an 18th century estate which is on the National Historic Register and one of the best preserved manor homes and grounds in all of Maryland. The goal of Save Belmont was to ensure that the owners of Belmont would use the property within reasonable environmental and preservation parameters and follow the intentions of the easements already placed on the property.

Cathy’s leadership and efforts culminated in the Howard Community College Education Foundation abandoning its plans for development and eventually placing Belmont for sale. The college’s decision to sell Belmont brings opportunity that Belmont will remain in its original condition

and signals to future owners of Belmont that the property is protected and the intent of the preservation easement must be followed.



Cathy Hudson is presented the 2010 Aileen Hughes Award.

JAN HOLLMANN GRANT PROGRAM

The Jan Hollman Grant Program aims to build the capacities of land trusts working to protect important places in their communities. Hollmann co-founded the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, and served on the Severn River Commission. She was Izaak Walton League’s Conservationist of the Year in 1989 and the Capital Newspaper’s Person of the Year for 1990. Jan died of cancer in April 1990. Our tribute to Jan Hollmann is this annual grant program named in her honor for those land trusts continuing in her footsteps.

The grants allow land trusts to increase their education and outreach activities for conservation easement donations and stewardship. These grants target land trusts that demonstrate easement solicitation skills in regions of significant land conservation potential. Grants are also made for land trusts pursuing accreditation under the Land Trust Accreditation Commission program. Independent accreditation provides the assurance of quality and permanence of land conservation the public is looking for. The FY 2010 Hollmann grants funded a variety of eligible costs, including staff positions, landowner outreach programs, and

internships. Funding for the Jan Hollmann Grants is provided by the State Highway Administration. The FY2010 recipients are:

Organization	Amount
Allegheny Highlands Conservancy	\$5,000
Baltimore Green Space	\$4,835
Harford Land Trust	\$4,000
Howard County Conservancy	\$500
Lower Shore Land Trust	\$1,000
Magothy River Land Trust	\$450
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County	\$5,000
Total	\$20,785

LAND TRUST GRANT FUND

The Fund was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1990 to provide interest-free loans to help land trusts purchase conservation lands and easements. MET has managed the fund to aid 16 land conservation projects between 1991 and 2004. These 16 projects have permanently protected 2,000 acres (as of June 30, 2010) through purchased and donated easements to MET and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. MET has deployed the Fund as a revolving loan fund to maximize its capacity to assist as many land trusts as possible. Loans made by 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. \$2.7million dollars have been lent from the Fund, matched by an additional \$9.4 million coming from conservation partners. As of June 30, 2010, the Fund had a balance of \$165,447. No expenditures or reimbursements were made during FY10. All loans had been reimbursed prior to the start of the fiscal year. No new projects have been funded since 2004.

One project remains in progress to achieve perpetual land protection, although all loans have been fully repaid. The land is owned in fee-simple by a preservation organization, with minimal threat of development. A mortgage held by Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust was subordinated to Maryland Environmental Trust to give security until the conservation easement is recorded.

During FY 2010, \$1.5 million of the Fund was diverted to the state's General Fund under the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act. The Fund balance is now insufficient to assist land trusts in acquiring conservation lands, but will operate if projects can be accommodated with the reduced funding available.

MET is required to report on the Land Trust Grant Fund pursuant to Natural Resources Article, §3-2A-14. MET shall report on or before September 1 of each year to the Governor, the budget committees of the General Assembly, and the Department of Legislative Services on the status of the Grant Fund as of the end of the previous fiscal year. This report is available through the Department of Legislative Services.

FY 2010 Land Trust Grant Fund Active Project

Organization	Date and Amount Loaned	Date of Payment	Amount Repaid	Balance
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust	9/19/2001	8/9/2005	\$10,860.00	\$0
	\$250,000.00	6/7/2006	\$110,000.00	
		8/15/2008	\$129,140.00	

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL

MET’s Keep Maryland Beautiful Program, funded by the State Highway Administration, presents the Margaret Rosch Jones Award and the Bill James Environmental Grants to volunteer or non-profit groups who carry out environmental education projects.

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award was established in 1976 and is given in Margaret’s memory of dedication to preserving the Chesapeake Bay. Born in 1906, Margaret had a genius IQ, wrote poetry, and was a self-taught Latin scholar. Margaret was the executive director and moving spirit of the Keep Maryland Beautiful Program for many years. MET hopes to remind citizens of her devotion, energy, and ingenuity by presenting an award in her name of up to \$2,000 to a group whose voluntary activities personify those attributes that Margaret Jones brought to her work. The Award is given to non-profit groups or communities that show

continuing plans for a project that has already demonstrated a basic understanding and resolution of an environmental issue.

The Bill James Environmental Grants are given in memory of William S. James and are grants of up to \$1,000 for proposed environmental education projects by school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other non-profit youth groups. Born in Aberdeen in 1914, Bill James studied law at the University of Maryland and then practiced law in Bel Air for 38 years. He served as President of the Maryland Senate and was the principal architect of many of Maryland’s most important environmental laws, including wetlands law, Program Open Space, and agricultural land preservation. Senator James drafted legislation to create the Maryland Environmental Trust, incorporating the activities of the Governor’s Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful. He was a man of vision who will not be forgotten for his contributions to the betterment of Maryland’s environment.

Margaret Rosch Jones Award Recipients	
Organization	Amount
Open Doors	\$500
Jones Falls Watershed Association	\$415
Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation	\$500
Alice Ferguson Foundation	\$500
Maryland Assoc. for Outdoor and Environmental Education	\$500
Frederick Community Gardens Association	\$500
Total	\$2,915

Bill James Grant Recipients	
Organization	Amount
Rockburn Elementary School	\$400
Thornleigh Improvement Association	\$400
Alliance for Community Education	\$400
Volunteer Frederick	\$400
Havre de Grace High School	\$400
Urbana Elementary School	\$400
The Red Wiggler Community Farm	\$400
Total	\$2,800