Conservation Planning and Sea Level Rise

If you live near the water, you’re probably used to impacts from Nor’easters and hurricanes. They’re part of what you expect when you live by the coast. The impacts from these weather events are just getting worse. Recent reports updating Maryland’s Sea-level Rise Projections suggest that Maryland should prepare for 1.4 feet of sea-level rise by 2050 and 3.7 feet or more by 2100. Floods and storm surges will rise well above these levels.

Our coastal wetlands are most at risk from rising sea-levels and land subsidence. These natural ecosystems provide a range of benefits, such as serving as natural filters for improving water quality, providing flood and erosion control, and supporting fish and wildlife habitats. The Lower Shore Tidal Marsh Climate Adaptation Project, a partnership between the Defenders of Wildlife, Audubon Maryland-DC and the Lower Shore Land Trust, identified areas most vulnerable to sea-level rise and developed strategies for conserving existing and future salt marsh in Wicomico and Somerset counties.

Voluntary conservation programs offer opportunities to create natural buffers and prevent development in vulnerable areas. With limited funding for land conservation, prioritizing available resources is a critical component in planning for resiliency. This collaborative project offers strategies for outreach and tools that prioritize areas where we will achieve the best results possible. For information about available conservation programs or to receive a copy of the report, visit our website at www.lowershorelandtrust.org.

Volunteers... The Lower Shore Land Trust relies heavily on volunteers. As part of National Make a Difference Day on October 26, volunteers met on a conserved property near Girdletree. The event was made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

Bob Long, Wild Turkey and Upland Game Bird Project Manager from Maryland DNR, explains how subtle changes to managing existing landscapes can work to provide nesting, brooding, loafing and escape cover and food necessary to maintain and improve conditions for successful breeding bobwhite populations in the coastal bays.

Make a Difference!

Volunteers installed bluebird boxes, planted Atlantic White Cedar trees and learned about conservation efforts needed to support the Northern bobwhite population.
Early supporter of the Lower Shore Land Trust was philanthropist Richard Hazel. Mr. Hazel enjoyed the outdoors and enjoyed sharing his 525-acre farm with boy scouts and other youth groups. In 1994, Mr. Hazel protected his land with a conservation easement. Mr. Hazel passed away in 2009, but the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center (HODC) continues to offer youth groups and educators outdoor experiences while constantly striving to enhance wildlife habitat on the property.

Earlier this year the HODC hosted a workshop with support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Xerces Society, and the Wicomico County Soil Conservation District to teach local farmers and beekeepers how to create wildflower meadows for native pollinators and other wildlife.

The Lower Shore Land Trust has conducted numerous events on the property, providing opportunities for the community to learn about forest stewardship, to participate in a photography workshop and to just enjoy walking on trails. We’re grateful to the HODC for their ongoing efforts to provide such a great resource for the community.

Steve Strano, State Biologist for Maryland USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Teresa Kampmeyer, District Conservationist for the Wicomico Field Services Center for MD USDA-NRCS demonstrate seed-sowing techniques for pollinator meadow.

Below: draft plan for restoration projects at the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center.
Join us for the 3rd Annual
Get Bluegrass!
Friday, December 20 from 6PM—11PM
Featuring
Chester River Runoff
Saltwater String Band
And other guests!

Tickets—$25.00 ($20 if purchased by December 15th!)
Includes commemorative pint glass & first beverage!
Silent Auction & Basket of Cheer Raffle
Tommy Mason BBQ available to purchase
Featuring Dogfish Head Craft Beer & Evolution Craft Brewing Company

Join our In-Kind Sponsors!
Autumn Grove
Matt Amey
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Crab Alley
Price Buick
Kevin Fleming
Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center
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Join our Sponsors!
Bank of Delmarva
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Dogfish Head Craft Beer
Evolution Craft Beer
Farm Credit
Forestland Group
The Casino at Ocean Downs

www.lowershorelandtrust.org
Support us through the Maryland Charity Campaign!

We are excited to be part of the Maryland Charities Campaign and we appreciate the support that comes from our teachers and other county, state and federal employees. Thank you so much for including the Lower Shore Land Trust in your workplace giving!

Join our Team!

Would you like to learn more about being a volunteer? If you enjoy spending time outdoors, have financial skills, website experience, enjoy writing or just want to learn more about our work, contact Michelle Schmidt at 410-641-4467. Michelle is our Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer.

Your gift can last for generations and make a world of difference!

Why do you love the land? Was it spending summers watching fireflies or fishing in the creek? Did you spend time with your family in the woods or flying kites along the shore?

You can make sure that generations of kids will share your passion for forests, farms, streams and the shore. Your gift will make a lasting impact and help ensure that the next generation can enjoy the lands we all love today.

If you would like to learn more about making a lasting gift to the Lower Shore Land Trust through Retirement Plans, Life Income Gifts, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable remainder Trusts and bequests, contact the office at 410-641-4467.

**Saving the places we love is the legacy we leave our children.**

Thank you!
Mission Statement

The Lower Shore Land Trust assists landowners and communities to conserve land for the enjoyment and well-being of present and future generations. Together, we protect forest and farmlands for strong local economies; natural resources for diverse wildlife and clean water; and rural landscapes in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

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Get Involved Today!

Cover photo—Irish Grove by Dave Curson

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Friday, December 20th, 6 PM—11 PM
Chase away the holiday blues and Get Bluegrass!
Add a little hoedown to your Ho! Ho! Ho!
Support our efforts to preserve working farms and forests here on the lower shore.
Order your tickets online at www.lowershorelandtrust.org today!

Connect with us:
We’d love to hear from you. Do you have questions? Suggestions?

Give us a call at the office at (410) 641-4467 or send us an email at info@lowershorelandtrust.org.

Follow us on Twitter @LSLTrust!