Section of a document discussing conservation efforts by the Lower Shore Land Trust.

**LSLT to Conserve Additional 260 Acres Prime Wildlife Habitat and Agricultural Land in Somerset County This Year!**

At last two projects will settle in Somerset County this year. We’re excited to protect over 200 acres in the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area. A second project will add additional acres to an easement, amending the easement to protect additional resources and further limit development potential on conservation lands. Since 2009, over 1000 acres of land have been protected in the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area using conservation easements with Maryland’s Rural Legacy Program and the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program. These programs are designed to preserve large, contiguous tracts of land, important to resource-based economies, wildlife and recreation. Exemplary plant and wildlife habitats, including Bald Cypress and Atlantic White Cedar swamps, forest interior and migratory songbirds, colonial waterbirds and the federally-endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel are found within the Area.

**Community Projects Educate**

Adkins Mill Pond Nature Park Pollinator Garden was installed this past spring and will serve as a demonstration garden. Support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore have made the garden possible. A formal ribbon cutting will be announced for spring of 2015.

Pemberton Historic Park Pollinator Meadow—With the momentum from our previous project, The Lower Shore Land Trust is currently working on creating another pollinator project—a meadow at Pemberton Park through a partnership with the Arthur Perdue Foundation, Lower Eastern Shore Beekeepers Association, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and Wicomico County Parks and Recreation.
What's The Buzz About Pollinators?
Pollen is a familiar occurrence here on the Eastern Shore, and for many it causes itchy eyes and sneezing, but for bees it means food. Despite their infamous sting, these yellow and black insects are a keynote species for the function of our ecosystem. Native bees and honey bees provide their pollinating abilities to numerous wild trees, shrubs, flowers, and even crops like pumpkins, tomatoes, and berries. Bees benefits from patches of native flowering plants in garden, public spaces, and on farms. Recent years show declines in pollinator populations and research points to loss of habitat and potentially harmful pesticides. The pollinator and rain garden projects we have been involved in are great demonstration gardens and we are excited to continue our partnership with these supporting foundations and organizations. Visit our website for a complete list of community gardens that LSLT has been instrumental in developing on the lower shore.

LSLT Facilitates Gifts of Land to Maryland DNR and Delaware Wildlands
Sinepuxent Bay Wildlife Management Area consists of marsh and mudflats that provide habitat for a variety of species of colonial nesting birds. Dredge spoils created 29 islands in the Assawoman and Sinepuxent bays in the 1930s, but due to erosion, only four of the 13 designated for wildlife habitat remained in 1964. Heron and Skimmer Islands were added to the Sinepuxent WMA in 1993, and Reedy Island will likely be added to the WMA by the end of the year.

The Delaware Wild Lands owns and manages 20,000 acres of land for biodiversity and traditional land uses, including hunting, farming and forestry. Although most of that land is in Delaware, some of the property they own is in Maryland along the northern headwaters of the Pocomoke River. The Lower Shore Land Trust facilitated a donation of a small parcel of cypress forest earlier this year and is encouraged that the property will serve as a piece connecting otherwise fragmented parcels of unprotected land along the Pocomoke River.

Stewardship Program
Conservation easements are agreements between the land trust and landowner that outline the conservation values of the land and the restricted uses that are designed to uphold those values. Once a property has been protected by a conservation easement, the land trust is required to conduct annual inspections. For LSLT and our volunteers, these can be the best part of the work! Visits to protected lands provide a deeper understanding of the region’s natural and cultural history, offering spectacular wildlife sightings and a chance to learn more about the local area and land use.

LSLT provides landowners with resources to identify, evaluate and implement available conservation programs. The organization implements state and federal easement programs and offers educational workshops for landowners about volunteer restoration and land protection programs. For more information, contact the office at 410-641-4467 or visit the website at www.lowershorelandtrust.org.
Habitat Tour & Talk on Saturday, November 8th from 10 am—Noon

Myers Gunning Club, a private hunt club situated near St Pierre Marsh and the Manokin River in Fairmount, MD (Somerset County) is a showcase for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Register today for a tour of the property and learn how to enhance your land. Donald Webster, MD DNR will talk about Maryland’s Waterfowl Restoration Program, a volunteer tax incentive program for waterfowl development and management on private lands. The program provides technical assistance to landowners for enhancing and managing their land for breeding, migrating and wintering waterfowl. Drainage and development have reduced wetlands across Maryland by more than 40% and private conservation is needed to ensure healthy habitats for a diverse variety of wetland dependent species.

Jim Myers has protected his land with a conservation easement and continues to actively manage his land for wildlife.

Mr. Myers and his family have dedicated the past couple of decades to enhancing their land for wildlife. Limited space! Register today by calling 410-641-4467. Lunch will be provided.

Join our team!

Have you considered getting involved with LSLT? There are many ways to volunteer! The volunteer crew at LSLT is amazing, and we couldn’t accomplish our work without the dedication and commitment of our dedicated volunteers. Do you have a skill that you would like to share with us? Event planning? Web Site management? If you are interested in learning more about our volunteers program—We’d love to hear from you!

Internships positions provide LSLT with resources to implement conservation programs and provide great training for students and graduates. Currently, LSLT is working with Ravyn Sanders, an undergraduate at Salisbury University, and Victoria Bauer, a recent graduate. Learn about eligibility by contacting the LSLT office at 410-641-4467 or visit the website at www.lowershorelandtrust.org.

Ravyn Saunders, SU Student Intern

Consider supporting us through the Maryland Charity Campaign!

We are excited to be listed in this campaign again, and we appreciate the support that comes from our teachers, county employees and corporate employees. Thank you so much for participating in workplace giving and choosing LSLT!

Donate Today!

Your tax deductible gift to the Lower Shore Land Trust supports our work to conserve working farms and forests and natural habitat on the lower shore. Donations can be sent to the LSLT office or made online by visiting our website. Please consider joining our monthly giving circle—monthly donors provide ongoing support to land protection efforts—visit us online for more information!

For more information about workplace giving, call us at 410-641-4467

Connect with us:

We’d love to hear from you. Do you have questions? Suggestions?

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

Follow us on Twitter @LSLTrust

Sign up for Facebook and get updates on events and conservation resources and programs or visit our website at www.lowershorelandtrust.org.

www.lowershorelandtrust.org
Director’s notes…
Over the summer LSLT conducted a short survey encouraging people to share their favorite places around the shore and identify highlights for visitors to our area. Not surprisingly, Assateague Island came out as the clear winner. It wasn’t long ago when the narrow barrier island was platted for development, and in fact, development had already begun on the island. Because of the vision, dogged dedication and tough skin, these early proponents of a national park managed to spark the interest of a larger community, lawmakers and the park system which ultimately led to the establishment of one of the nation’s premier parks.
The survey also prompted participants to comment on critical issues they expect will impact our region over the next 5—10 years. Not surprisingly, changes in farming practices and lack of young farmers ranked high on the list of concerns, followed closely by questions over our region’s ability to withstand damages from seal level rise and impacts from population growth.
The survey also asked participants to recommend programs or issues that LSLT should focus on in the coming years. Apart from continued work in land conservation, an overwhelming number of responses suggest we should do more community education and youth programs and support a variety of outdoor recreation, including trails. Although the poll is representative of mostly people who are familiar with our work, a couple themes have begun to surface. People live here and choose to visit our area because of the natural beauty of our coastal areas and rich heritage. Protecting these assets will ensure the ongoing productivity of our most important industries, agriculture and tourism, but will also ensure that we preserve the quality of life we all enjoy. Conserving our most valuable resources for future generations takes vision, dedication and resources. Next year marks 25 years of land conservation on the lower shore—join us as we celebrate the land!

Assateague Gateway Trail Gaining Steam
Efforts are underway to establish a trail corridor from Berlin (America’s Coolest Small Town!) to Assateague Island National Seashore and State Parks. The Town of Berlin, in partnership with LSLT, submitted a grant to the Maryland Bikeways Program and received a $30,000 award to conduct a preliminary engineering survey along the corridor. The goal of the survey is to identify suitable places along the road for an adjacent bike and pedestrian trail. Safe, family friendly trails that connect Berlin to our national and state parks will also highlight existing conservation and recreation projects underway along the corridor, including the Ilia Fehrer Preserve and the Assateague Water Trail which includes Ayers Creek.
To learn more about how you can support the Assateague Gateway Trail and other trail projects, join us on Tuesday, November 18th from 6—7 PM at the Ocean Pines Library. For more information, contact the LSLT office at 410-641-4467.

Habitat Work for Northern Bobwhite and Pollinators Supported by Arthur W. Perdue Foundation
Protecting land through voluntary conservation easements ensures that there are large, unfragmented forests and farms which in turn support our resource based industries and wildlife habitat. Many properties, including public lands, provide opportunities for enhancing habitat. Through a generous grant from the Arthur Perdue Foundation, LSLT is working to promote the tools and techniques necessary for enhancing habitat for a variety of wildlife, including Northern Bobwhite, pollinators and waterfowl. It is yet to be seen if the Northern Bobwhite, known also as quail, will once again grace our landscape in sustainable numbers, although there are some indications that populations near the E.A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area could provide hope. Landowners in the Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area are working with MD DNR to voluntarily enhance their land to support quail habitat and together establish a contiguous corridor. Check out our fall programs and learn more about how you can protect our wildlife!

The Lower Shore Land Trust is grateful for the generous support from Choptank Electric Trust and the Rural Maryland Council. Grant funding supports our outreach and communications program, educating our communities about the benefits of land conservation.

www.lowershorelandtrust.org
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.

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

Contact LSLT to learn more about planned giving.

Bird Walk with Ron Gurberlet on Sunday, October 26 from 9—11 am!

E.A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area provides opportunities for waterfowl viewing and late songbird migration. Ron is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Salisbury University, the Associate Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, President of the Tri-County Bird Club and Vice President of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Ron is pleased to share his expertise with all ages! The Group will meet at the EA Vaughn, Taylor Landing Parking lot. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, cameras and dress appropriately!

Reserve by calling 410-641-4467
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.

LSLT Board of Directors

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Larry Walton

Staff

Kate Patton—Executive Director
Ravyn Saunders—SU Intern
Victoria Bauer—Stewardship Intern

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Sunday, October 26, 9 am—11 am
Bird Walk with Ron Gutberlet—Experience bird watching at E.A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area and enjoy one the regions best locations for waterfowl and other wildlife. Reserve today! (Photo by Ron Gutberlet)

Saturday, November 8th, 10 am—Noon
Habitat Tour & Talk with Donald Webster
Especially for Landowners! Learn about MD DNR Waterfowl Program from Donald Webster and see habitat practices in place on this beautiful farm in Somerset County. Lunch provided with reservation.

Tuesday, November 18, 6PM—7PM
Trails Get Rolling with Bikeways Grant—What’s Next?
Join us for a presentation at the Ocean Pines Library and learn more about this exciting effort and new possibilities.

Thursday, December 4th—Berlin Christmas Parade!
Check out the Lower Shore Land Trust holiday float!

Saturday, December 6th—Get Bluegrass!
4th Annual holiday event to be held at the Berlin Fire Hall from 6 PM—11 PM. Tickets $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Proceeds benefit land conservation on the lower shore.