LSLT Hires Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator!

This is an exciting year for the land trust and it’s all about improving our ability to serve the lower shore more efficiently and offer educational programs and resources to farmers and other landowners. Through the generous support of several valued donors and the support of the Chesapeake Bay Trust Watershed Assistance Grant program, we have been successful in hiring Victoria Bauer. The Lower Shore Land Trust is pleased to announce that Victoria Bauer has joined the non-profit organization staff as the new Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator.

Victoria is no stranger to land conservation and stewardship. Prior to accepting the position, she volunteered as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Stewardship intern for the Land Trust where she coordinated aerial monitoring of conservation easements, as well as prepared field files, conducted ground monitoring, and assisted in fundraising and outreach events.

Victoria graduated from Salisbury University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies and focus in Environmental Planning. While at SU she led the first student driven permaculture garden on campus and engaged other students, staff and community members to participate. Post-graduation, she began work at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources as a Sustainable Building Analyst for the Division of Energy and Climate.

Since accepting the Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator position with Lower Shore Land Trust in February, Victoria oversees the Stewardship Program and is responsible for volunteer coordination, landowner relations, event planning and strengthening community involvement.

LSLT is grateful for the protection of this 168 acre property and acknowledges the commitment of the Nichols family to the conservation of our coastal lands. “The Nichols Family, would like to thank MET, LSLT and their staff for their hard work and dedication to this process. It was clear to us, that this property is better served remaining in agriculture as opposed to being developed. Our strong commitment to conservation, only made the decision of protecting this property as an obvious win for everyone.” - Charles Nichols
Stewardship Corner

On February 21st, 11 volunteers braved the cold and took vested interest in land conservation here on the Eastern Shore by attending our bi-annual LSLT Steward Training workshop. We are pleased to welcome 8 new volunteers, all of which have already been out to monitor easement programs. Bridget, pictured right, was tickled to hear spring peepers on her first monitoring visit with lead volunteer Alan.

Also in news, we’ve nominated Ravyn Saunders, our previous SU Pollinator Intern, to be a lead volunteer in the Stewardship Program. Contact LSLT today to take a walk with Alan, Ravyn or Victoria to find out if the LSLT Stewardship Program is a good fit for you. Who knows, maybe you will be the lucky one to spot the rare Sandhill Crane that has been spotted here in Berlin.

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 info@lowershorelandtrust.org.

Conservation Boosts Economy with Birdwatchers!

The 20th Annual Delmarva Birding Weekend is approaching and demonstrates just how popular birdwatching has become. The popular event celebrates the spring migration of thousands of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. It combines board trips, paddling treks and expeditions by foot. This year’s event will be held on April 23—26, 2015. For information, call Worcester County Tourism—410-632-3110.

Events like the Delmarva Birding Weekend serve to highlight not only the great interest in birdwatching, with visitors coming from many different states, but the event showcases some of the most pristine areas around the region. Protecting what is left of the summer nesting areas is critical to maintaining healthy populations of our feather friends. Unfortunately, development is not our only threat to habitat. Low lying areas and marsh, ideal feeding areas for the colonial nesting birds and waterfowl, is also threatened by sea level rise. Conservation partners are studying ways to manage marsh and migration of marsh along adjacent lands at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. The LSLT, along with partners Paul Sturm of Ridge to Reefs and Lori Lilly, watershed consultant, are developing a strategic land conservation tool to identify vulnerable marsh along the Wicomico River watershed. Allowing marsh to migrate will ensure vibrant habitat for birds and coastal resilience on the lower shore.

Property Tour

Visit a 200 acre property in Somerset County and learn about available conservation programs. The property has been conserved with a conservation easement. Learn how Jim Myers, the landowner, has enhanced his land for waterfowl, Northern Bobwhite and other wildlife. Donald Webster from MD DNR Waterfowl program, Bob Long from MD DNR upland Game program and Jake McPherson from Ducks Unlimited will be on hand to talk about available programs for landowners. LSLT Staff will talk about the easement programs. Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP for directions or more information—410-641-4467 or info@lowershorelandtrust.org

The Lower Shore boasts some of the best birdwatching around the region. The Great Egret is common to our area during summer months. The Lower Shore boasts some of the best birdwatching around the region. The Great Egret is common to our area during summer months.

Saturday, April 18, 1:00-3:30pm

Property Tour

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RSVP for directions or more information—410-641-4467 or info@lowershorelandtrust.org
Help Us Protect Rare & Threatened Species by Growing Our Monthly Giving Program!

For those of us who value our rural heritage, we’re up against increasing challenges. Ensuring that the places we love are protected from development requires tremendous resources and commitment. You can make a huge difference by making a small donation every month. Help us meet our goal of 25 new monthly supporters!

For the cost of a café mocha or a ticket to the movies, you will be supporting LSLT and our land conservation efforts right here! Small monthly donations add up to a substantial annual donation and a monthly donation to LSLT means more of your gift goes to our mission and we are able to budget your support each month.

A monthly gift of $10, $15 or $25 supports our programs in a significant way. $10 a month for a year buys mulch for a pollinator garden, $25 a month provides support for 2 educational programs in the community. Your generosity will strengthen our ability to work with families, landowners and local communities so that we may foster a strong stewardship ethic throughout our local communities. Thank you!

Join our team!

Internship positions provide LSLT with resources to implement conservation programs and provide great training for students and graduates. Currently, LSLT is working with Erin Harvey, a junior at Salisbury University, and Suzanne Ketcham, a junior. Erin is working on an exciting pollinator project for SU and assisting with activities leading up to the Native Plant Celebration. Suzanne is applying her GIS (Geospatial Information Systems) skills and assisting with mapping projects for our stewardship and easement work. Learn about eligibility by contacting the LSLT office at 410-641-4467 or visit the website at www.lowershorelandtrust.org.

Some other ways to support the Lower Shore Land Trust...

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!

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

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.

Consider choosing LSLT when shopping Amazon.com. We benefit when you shop and select Lower Shore Land Trust on AmazonSmile!

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 or visit our website at: www.lowershorelandtrust.org.
Welcome Spring! We’ve been busy planning some exciting programs, tours and native plant and pollinator events. Our programs are designed to provide useful information about enhancing habitat, local watersheds and the landscapes that make up the rich patchwork of farms, forests and towns. We promote outdoor activities and volunteer events that support efforts to conserve and celebrate our environment. Our programs help to raise awareness throughout local communities about our resource based economies, like forestry and farming, and how voluntary tools like land protection help our counties meet goals for resource protection while maintaining strong resource industries.

The work we do at the landscape level is crucial, but we strive to engage all residents in a greater understanding of the benefits of land conservation. For example, landscaping with native plants provides habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. Each of us can play a role to ensure we are reversing the trends and improving habitat for wildlife and protecting our creeks and bays. Take part in our Native Plant Celebration or visit your local nursery or garden center and start gardening with natives!

Our landscape is a treasure of biodiversity and we have an exciting opportunity to share this treasure with our children and set an example for them about good stewardship. The stretches of scenic lands across the shore are a fraction of what they once were, resulting in greatly diminished habitat for migrating waterfowl and songbirds. Learning about migrating birds is one way to share the sense of wonder with the next generation. With Delmarva Birding Weekend coming up, take a tour and share the excitement of the spring migration! Learn about warblers or take a walk at night and listen to owls. Take boat excursions, paddle or plan to explore some of the best birding properties on Delmarva!

Development pressure will continue to threaten our rural lands but how we choose to protect these lands will be the legacy we leave the next generation. Our work at the Land Trust is about conserving resources for the future—and we’ve made the commitment to be around for a long time! Please join us and together we will ensure our coastal communities and towns are surrounded by resilient and healthy landscapes.

Trails for Everyone!

The LSLT is continuing to assist with the development of a Walkable Bikeable Trail Program for Berlin and the surrounding communities. By working with the Town of Berlin, the National Park Service, the Eastern Shore International Mountain Bike Association, and other partners interested in health and wellness, recreation and conservation, we are continuing to push for trails and safe access to the outdoors and to our parks.

Join us on Monday, May 4th from 7—10 pm at the OC House of Rock (Trader Lees) in West OC for the kickoff awareness party for People that Ride Bikes Week! Groups include ESIMBA, West OC Pedal and Pedestrian Group, Berlin Skate Bike Unite, Bike SBY and LSLT.

The event will showcase ways to get involved with various groups working on bike and pedestrian initiatives around West OC, Berlin and Ocean Pines. Learn about efforts to establish Ayers Creek as a recognized water trail! Informational tables, bands, and volunteer opportunities!

The Lower Shore Land Trust is grateful for the generous support from the Rural Maryland Council. Grant funding supports our outreach and communications program, educating our communities about the benefits of land conservation.
2015 Native Plant Events

Thursday, April 9, 6:00—7:30pm
Wetland Ponds

Location—Ward Museum, Salisbury

Are you thinking about a pond? Learn how a wetland pond can benefit your property and provide great habitat. Already have a pond? Katelin Frase of Environmental Concern will discuss siting your wetland or pond and suggest the best plants for your project. Be prepared to make a plan and get started!

Refreshments provided! RSVP to reserve your seat!

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Native Plant Sale & Celebration at the Ward Museum

Over 60 varieties of Native Plants available, Scales & Tales & Demonstration Hive

Join us for the 8th annual Native Plant Sale & Celebration. Find out about the best natives for your yard from master gardeners. Come face to face with wild animals through the Scales & Tales program, possible through Maryland State Parks. Learn how you can help local beekeepers and see a demonstration hive with live bees! Explore the grounds of the Ward Museum and learn about the native landscaping efforts.

Native plant Pre-orders encouraged for best selection!
www.lowershorelandtrust.org or email info@lowershorelandtrust.org for order form.

Thursday, May 28, 5:00 pm—7:30 pm
Native Seed Saving Program

Pemberton Historic Park Education Building

Mark Gormel from the Brandywine Conservancy and Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania will talk about the successful program established by the Brandywine Museum. With close to everything you’ve ever dared to wonder about in collecting and handling native seeds. Topics covered will include knowing the species, interpreting visual changes in the seeds, collection methodologies, keeping records, cleaning and post-collection handling. The event starts at 5:00 pm with a visit to the pollinator meadow and then a presentation with Mark at the Education Building.

$10 cost and reservations suggested!

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am
Ribbon Cutting for Adkins Mill Pond Nature Park Pollinator Garden!

Support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore have made the garden possible at Adkins Mill Nature Park. A formal ribbon cutting will be held on June 20, at 10 am. Enjoy a short presentation about pollinators and explore the park on foot or bring a kayak and paddle around the old mill pond.

For more information, call the LSLT office at 410-641-4467 or email at info@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.
The Lower Shore Land Trust promotes land conservation through community engagement.

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Victoria Bauer—Stewardship & Outreach Coordinator
Erin Harvey—Intern
Suzanne Ketcham—Intern

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Thursday, April 9, 6:00—7:30 pm Wetland Pond Design Workshop with Katelin Frase from Environmental Concern. This workshop is ideal for those considering a small wetland or pond or enhancing existing areas on your property. The event will be held at the Ward Museum. No charge!

Saturday, April 18, 1:00—3:30
Habitat Tour & Talk with Donald Webster
Especially for Landowners! Learn about MD DNR Waterfowl Program from Donald Webster, quail habitat from Bob Long, DNR, and other conservation programs from Jake McPherson, Ducks Unlimited. See habitat practices in place on this beautiful protected farm in Somerset County. No charge!

Delmarva Birding Weekend is coming up April 23—26. Visit delmarvabirding.org for more information and welcome the spring migration!

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 am—1:00 pm 8th Annual Native Plant Celebration and Sale at the Ward Museum! Great selection of native plants, learn from master gardeners, Scales and Tales for the family and meet local beekeepers!

Thursday, May 28, 5:00 pm—7:30 pm Native Plant Seed Saving Program with Mark Gormel of the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum. Pemberton Park. $10 RSVP!