Sitting on the banks of the Pocomoke River in the heart of Snow Hill, the new home of the Lower Shore Land Trust is not only picturesque, it also serves our mission. In this spot, we will welcome prospective members and negotiate new easements, all within sight of the resources we protect. The property offers room to grow in a location that makes sense—for the Lower Shore Land Trust and the community we serve. The Board of Directors envisions a permanent home for the Lower Shore Land Trust where we may focus on the heritage of our rural lands and educate the community and visitors about the local bays and tributaries through activities such as paddling, cycling, hiking, birdwatching and habitat restoration. This location will provide opportunities for classroom-style programs, demonstration gardens and for a visitor center showcasing the natural and cultural heritage of the region.

Our Campaign to secure the building as a permanent home needs your support to make this a reality! To learn more about how you can help, read the section “Standing our Ground” or call Kate Patton at the LSLT office - 443-234-5587.
The Lower Shore Land Trust recently worked with Maryland DNR and the Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River and Atlantic Test Range (ATR) to conserve a farm along Quantico and Manumsco Creeks in Wicomico County. This easement marks a major milestone for the Navy by topping the 5,000 acre mark for lands protected under the ATR.

Eastern Shore landowner Ed Breitschwerdt explains, "A conservation easement has allowed our family to keep our land in agriculture and preserve open space without having to develop or sell lots." Adding that, "The Lower Shore Land Trust worked with Maryland's Rural Legacy Program, the Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) and Wicomico County to assist our family through the [easement] process."

Maryland's Rural Legacy Program supports efforts by communities to conserve valuable working farms and ecological areas. Earlier this year we finalized an easement in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Somerset County and Maryland DNR to conserve forest habitat for migrating songbirds and raptors and protect water quality for Pollitt's Branch, a tributary of Dividing Creek.

We're on track to protect three more properties by the end of the year, totaling more than 350 acres.

**Banner Year for Land Conservation on the Lower Shore**

**Stewardship Corner**

**Beautiful, but Nasty Invasives to Avoid in the Garden**

Being a good steward of your land is much more than introducing native plants or fertilizing your turf areas less, it takes staying informed and avoiding all plants listed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture as a Tier One or Tier Two invasive. Tier One invasives cannot be propagated, purchased or introduced. Tier Two invasives are still being sold as nursery stock but signage must now be displayed prominently at the point of sale. These lists are still being developed, and as we learn more, some of our gardening preferences will need to change. As one who has spent time pulling wisteria out of an old growth forest, I have seen firsthand what damage an introduced ornamental plant can do. Please garden wisely.

For more information, check out Maryland Department of Agriculture’s website: [http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx)

**Tier One includes:**
- Ficaria verna (fig buttercup)
- Geranium lucidum (shining cranesbill, **pictured on right**)
- Iris pseudacorus (yellow flag iris)

**Tier Two includes:**
- Euonymus alatus (burning bush)
- Ligustrum obtusifolium (blunt-leaved or border privet)
- Wisteria sinensis (Chinese wisteria)
- Wisteria floribunda (Japanese wisteria)
- Wisteria x formosa (floribunda x sinensis hybrids)

Marianne Pettis, Stewardship Coordinator
LSLT volunteers helping us man the table at the Blessing of the Combines on August 6th. From the left, Barbara Dolan, Bridget Foster, Alan Kamauff, and Harold Scrimgeour. Special shout-out to Harold for making our move to Snow Hill as seamless as possible. Oh, and for all those delicious watermelons!

**Monthly Subscribers Wanted!**

Please consider joining our monthly subscribers group. For as little as $10 a month, you can support our work throughout the year. Our monthly subscribers are critical to our work and provide LSLT with a baseline for operations.

Just think, for less than one cup of coffee per week, you can keep us floating!

Help us reach our goal of 10 new subscribers a month! With each new monthly donor, we can spend less time fundraising, and more time conserving land! Thanks to our newest monthly subscriber—Bridget Foster!
Standing Our Ground - Building Campaign Hits Halfway Mark!

This campaign is an ambitious endeavor for the Lower Shore Land Trust and represents the commitment of the Board of Directors to establish a permanent home for the organization and a stewardship fund to sustain the building and strengthen our conservation work. Under the leadership of Board Chairman Hugh Cropper, the Board has 100% participation in the campaign and has committed over $40,000. The Mary Humphreys Foundation has made a significant investment of $75,000 and the Hazel Foundation has contributed $25,000 to our campaign. With community support we will reach our goal of $300,000!

Naming Opportunities

| Visitor Center | $50,000 or more |
| Board Room | $25,000 or more |
| Riverside Garden | $25,000 |
| Sidewalk Garden (2) | $15,000 |
| Legacy Building Supporter | $10,000 |
| Partner - Stewardship Gift | $5,000 |
| Friend - Stewardship Gift | $2,500 or more |
| Land Trustee - Stewardship Gift | $1,000 or more |
| Land Steward - Stewardship Gift | $500 or more |

A Campaign For Success!

Doug Stephens, Board Director

Doug Stephens was born and raised in Salisbury, Maryland and is an avid boatsman, fisherman, and outdoorsman. Doug is a realtor with Coldwell Bankers, and he and his wife, Nancy, live along the Nanticoke River in Sharptown, MD where they enjoy the views, wildlife, and peace of one of the Bay area’s most pristine tributaries.

Doug is a major donor to the building campaign and in addition has been instrumental in supplying essentials for our new home (like a vacuum and microwave!). Doug’s photography will be on display in our office throughout the fall, so come check it out! Proceeds from his photographs and book, Summer Harvest, will support LSLT’s mission of land conservation on the lower shore. Thanks Doug for all that you do for LSLT!
...Save the date, and let's celebrate! Join us on October 7th from 3:00 pm—8:00 pm at the LSLT office—and enjoy Snow Hill's First Friday. We'll be having a ribbon cutting for our new building plus a Volunteer Appreciation celebration. Paddling, river cruises, pot luck dinner, and fun on the river! We'll be jamming from 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm - more details to come, be sure to check your inboxes and facebook!

We ❤️ our volunteers!
Ride to Sturgis Park
Snow Hill's newest event is happening in Sturgis Memorial Park on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 11am-4pm. Come to the park and enjoy live music on the banks of the Pocomoke River while helping to promote LSLT. There will be food and beer for purchase. Contact the office to at 443-234-5587 volunteer!

Day to Serve
We need you! Join us for a morning of community beautification, Sept. 24th from 9am-12pm. As part of the month-long "Day to Serve" we will be doing our part to clean up local pollinator gardens and parks. Contact the office at 443-234-5587 to volunteer!

Delmarva Paddling Weekend
Sept. 30th-Oct. 2nd. Guided excursions will be offered by kayak, canoe, and paddle board to explore the natural wonders of the Pocomoke River, Nassawango and Broad Creeks, and surrounding areas. For more info and to register, visit DelmarvaPaddling.com

Fiberfest!
The Julia A. Purnell Museum presents FiberFest!, to take place on the museum grounds on Market Street in downtown Snow Hill on Saturday, October 8 from 10am-4pm. Vendors offering art pieces, clothing, and home décor items perfect for holiday gifts. While you’re in town, stop by our table in Byrd Park and say hello!