



Harford Land Trust News

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

Fall 2019

Protect What You Love





To work with landowners, private and public, to conserve land and protect its natural resources, scenic beauty, rural character, and promote a healthy quality of life in Harford County.

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STRONGER TOGETHER

As a nonprofit organization, we depend on the generosity of our supporters to make our land preservation initiatives possible, to keep the lights on in the office, and to reach out to landowners and new audiences.

During these times when it seems like the things that divide us as Americans are amplified everywhere we turn, I think **it's worth celebrating that land preservation enjoys such strong support in Harford County** and that so many of us recognize that our **own little part of the world is unique and worth protecting.**

But that's not to say that we don't still have work to do in terms of outreach to our fellow county residents. A lot of our neighbors, although well-meaning, can probably be referred to as *windshield preservationists*. That is, they see a field or a forest in their daily travels and they think, "Hey, someone should preserve that," without ever thinking about who would do it, how it would come to be, or how they can help make it happen.





Or maybe they only have that thought when it's too late.

Preservation doesn't just happen by chance. It takes a commitment by the landowner (although there are many financial benefits for landowners too). It takes the long-term stewardship commitment of a preservation organization like HLT. It takes funding and resources. But just as importantly **it takes the support of the community.**

Without your support, we could not fulfill our mission of preserving Harford's rural and scenic beauty for future generations. On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I thank you for your ongoing support and wish your family a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benjamin Lloyd
President

While we appreciate the sharing of news regarding our work, please contact the HLT office prior to reprinting of newsletter content in full or in part.



Sunset in White Hall (photo by Allie Murphy)



A Party for Preservation!

Harford's commitment to land preservation shines at 2019's Harvest Moon Dinner & Auction



HLT supporters raised a record \$54,000 at the eighth annual Harvest Moon Dinner & Auction on Saturday, October 19. An enthusiastic sell-out crowd of over 200 people attended the event at the Bel Air Armory to support our mission of preserving land in Harford County.

Keynote speaker, Delegate Andrew Cassilly shared stories of growing up in a large family in Harford County. Del. Cassilly spoke of the value of connecting people to the land to create a common vision for land preservation in Harford County. He added that the perpetual nature of these easements protects that legacy for generations.

The event was made possible by the donated goods and services of over 100 local businesses and residents. Harford County Register of Wills, Derek Hopkins, donated his auctioneering services, Joppa resident Jeff Conti donated his professional decorating services, and MacGregor's of Havre de Grace donated catering services.

"The outpouring of support for our event shows that our community recognizes the importance of our work and understands the many benefits of land preservation," Harford Land Trust Board President Ben Lloyd said.

"Thank you to our event committee chair and Board Member Jo Tyson, as well as Cyndi Fitzhugh, Sarah Morris, and Jeff Conti for their work behind the scenes to make this a success."



Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Dennis Kirkwood and current Board Member H. Turney McKnight; our 2019 Harvest Moon Dinner & Auction venue, the historic Bel Air Armory; guest speaker Delegate Andrew Cassilly; Director of Administration Billy Boniface and Board President Ben Lloyd; event committee Executive Director Kristin Kirkwood, Cyndi Fitzhugh, Communications & Development Manager Tyler Buck; Board Member Jo Tyson, and Sarah Morris; Charlie Martin and auctioneer Derek Hopkins; Board Member Judge Bill Carr and County Council President Patrick Vincenti; arrangement by Jeff Conti; and Del. Steve Johnson with Art and Ann Helton. (Photos by Ruben Pereida Photography www.rubenpereidaphotography.com)

THANK YOU to our Harvest Moon Supporters!

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We strive to ensure that our records are accurate and to properly acknowledge all donors. Please contact us if you see that we have made an error or omission.

Welcome Jeanne!

We are delighted to welcome our newest Board Member, Jeanne Sisk. Jeanne grew up in Bel Air and attended C. Milton Wright High School. She attended Goucher College for her undergraduate degree and then Johns Hopkins University where she earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology. Jeanne spent the last 10 years researching viruses, including those that caused the outbreak of SARS and MERS. She recently joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a biologist in their Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Jeanne lives on Windmill Hill Farm in Havre De Grace with her partner Sarah Jay. She is enjoying learning the fundamentals of horse care and trail riding. In her spare time she enjoys kayaking and spending time with family, friends, and pets.

Jeanne Sisk and HLT's new Communication & Development Manager Tyler Buck at Eden Mill Nature Center's Fall Fest on November 2.



Jeanne Sisk and her partner Sarah Jay.

A chat with our newest Board Member

Jeanne, tell us about your connections to Harford County.

I grew up in Bel Air and graduated from C. Milton Wright High School. I lived in Baltimore City for many years and am happy to be back home!

Why is preserving land in Harford County important to you?

I believe the mission of the Harford Land Trust benefits all residents of the county. Preserving agricultural lands supports family farms that in turn provide sources of locally grown food. Maintaining water and wooded habitats is imperative for species that depend on those habitats for their survival. Preserving agricultural land and wildlife habitats will also help to maintain cleaner air and water for those who live in the county and surrounding areas.

Why did you decide to become involved in HLT?

Quite simply, I became involved in HLT so that I could be part of helping to preserve the agricultural history and natural beauty of Harford County for future generations. The prospect of working closely with folks who share my passion is exciting.



OH DEER!

Land Steward Program Connects Sportsmen to Land Preservation

Photo courtesy of
© Frank Marsden

Hunters and anglers were among the first to crusade for wildlife and habitat protection and remain some of today's most important conservation leaders. Recognizing the importance of rural Maryland's hunting heritage, as well as an untapped source of volunteers and advocates, former HLT Executive Director, Peg Niland, developed the Land Steward Program during her tenure at Calvert County's American Chestnut Land Trust. She launched a similar program in Harford County after joining HLT in 2006. Since then, the program has attracted hunters from all over Harford County and turned avid sportsmen into one of HLT's most valued resources.

HLT's Land Steward Program works on a simple exchange basis; volunteer hours for white-tailed deer

hunting rights on HLT preserves. This symbiotic relationship reaps rewards for the hunters, HLT, and most importantly, the growth of land preservation in Harford County.

Program participant Rob Babylon puts it succinctly, "A local hunting lease could cost thousands of dollars a year elsewhere. But all HLT asks for is volunteer hours." As a result of his volunteer efforts, Rob has connected with likeminded sportsman who care deeply about HLT's mission of preserving Harford's natural resources and rural heritage. The program stoked a passion for land preservation in Rob and his son, Robby. "If we don't do something today, there will be nothing to do tomorrow." We couldn't agree more Rob.

Fulfilling the Stewardship Promise

From Volunteer Hunter to HLT Board Member: Meet Dan Krug



Tree stand on HLT's Otter Point Creek Preserve in Edgewood (photo by Dan Krug)

When Dan Krug purchased his Edgewood home in 2008, he had no idea he had taken the first step in becoming a steward for land preservation. As Dan recalls, “One day I was walking my dog in the woods adjacent to my property and saw a sign that said, ‘*HLT owned property: no hunting without written permission.*’” Eager to find out more information, Dan called the number on the bottom of the sign and wound up conversing with then HLT Executive Director, Peg Niland. Peg told Dan about the volunteer Land Steward Program and he was hooked.

“Being granted hunting access in exchange for some basic stewardship duties seemed too good to be true,” notes Dan. Over the years he learned that the program not only helps manage the deer population, but, for some hunters it is a gateway to becoming a passionate steward and advocate for land preservation.

As a result of his participation in the Land Steward Program Dan became increasingly involved in land preservation, eventually being asked to join the HLT Board in 2016. Dan believes spending time in his youth hunting, fishing, and hiking had a big impact on who he is today. “If we can preserve the land forever,

“On any given day, I can take a walk and see deer, bald eagles, turkeys, foxes, coyotes, woodcocks, wood ducks, and even flying squirrels. If that's not a good reason for land preservation in a town like Edgewood, I don't know what is.”

Dan Krug, HLT Board Member and Land Steward



tomorrow's generations will be able to enjoy the outdoor spaces we are lucky enough to enjoy today. On any given day I can take a walk and see deer, bald eagles, turkeys, foxes, coyotes, woodcocks, wood ducks, and even flying squirrels. If that's not a good reason for land preservation in a town like Edgewood, I don't know what is.”

HLT benefits greatly from the hunters' volunteer service. The team are always present at HLT's events lending a hand and do much of the land management tasks. Hunters also serve as the eyes and ears on the properties, observing changes to the land, noting management needs, and spotting interesting wildlife.

“The program is an invaluable source of volunteer stewards. It has grown tremendously over the years and we now have a waiting list,” says Kristin Kirkwood, HLT's Executive Director.

Dan's journey from sportsman to land steward is not uncommon for those involved in HLT's volunteer Land Steward Program. Dan encourages all those interested in exploring the volunteer hunting program to, “reach out to HLT, or come out and help volunteer at an HLT event to chat with other volunteers and get your foot in the door. It may not happen the first or second year, but it's worth it in the long run. The hunting is great, but the personal rewards are even better!”



Willoughby Beach Road in Edgewood (photo by Dan Krug)

We Salute You, Our Conservation Heroes

Thank you to the many members and donors who contributed between June 2019 through October 2019.

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Harvest in Harford County

Per-pe-tu-i-ty

noun

1. A bond or security with no fixed maturity date;
2. A restriction making an estate inalienable perpetually, or for a period beyond certain limits fixed by law;
3. The state or quality of lasting forever.

