

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2022

# HARFORD LAND TRUST

Historic  
Waterfront  
Donation

Party to Preserve

Out and About  
on the Land

[WWW.HARFORDLANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.HARFORDLANDTRUST.ORG)



From left to right: Executive Director Kristin Kirkwood; past Presidents Ann Helton, Ben Lloyd, and Harry Webster, Jr.; current President Turney McKnight, and past President Peter Jay (photo by: Topher Stevenson; cover photo by: Edwin Remsberg)

## President's Note

Most of us are aware of the tenacious struggle by concerned citizens to save Abingdon Woods from being clear-cut to make way for a warehouse park. As well, those who were at our Party to Preserve saw thousands of dollars pledged in return for future land conservation.

How to explain these two striking cases of what we might term local conservation activism?

Sure, there are the usual reasons, all valid: People know that natural lands provide critical habitats for numerous species. They know that forests trap rainwater and prevent erosive runoff. They know that porous surfaces are natural filters, contributing to clearer water entering the Bay. And, conversely, people fear the clogged traffic and even increased highway danger that often follows on the heels of development.

They are aware that the resulting tax revenues

will not be sufficient to cover the additional government services required.

And they feel, and hate, that the places where they live are somehow being diminished.

But I think there is something more profound at work when people leave their comfort zone in order to try to preserve what is natural.

At least for me, the words of Wallace Stegner in the closing passages of his "Wilderness Letter" tell an important part of the story:

*"We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to the edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."*

Thank you for standing up for the land.

**H. TURNEY MCKNIGHT**

# Board Spotlight

## HILLARY TAYSON

**Hillary Tayson** joined HLT's Board in the summer of 2022.

Since 2007, Hillary has been the brains behind the marketing and operations for Coffee Coffee, her family business based in Bel Air. She recently received a certificate of entrepreneurship from Goldman Sach's 10,000 Small Business Program. Hillary studied Community Development & Applied Economics at the University of Vermont's College of Agriculture.

You can find Hillary most Saturday mornings at the Bel Air Farmer's Market, for which she served as a board member and recent past president. Hillary lives in Bel Air with her husband Lee and two daughters Gabrielle and Riley. Together, they enjoy hiking, traveling, and being active.



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**Kristin Kirkwood**

*Executive Director*

**Nina Depkin**

*Outreach & Development Manager*

**Jackie Koehn**

*Land Programs Manager*

# Preserving Harford's Susquehanna Waterfront



photo by Constellation

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan joined officials from Harford and Cecil counties, Constellation, Chesapeake Conservancy, and HLT on October 15 to celebrate the company's commitment to donate approximately 300 acres of land south of the Conowingo Dam for public recreation and conservation.

Constellation's donation will support the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and enhance public access to local and state park systems.

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the donation to the State of Maryland, the City of Havre de Grace, and

**“ As governor, I have looked for opportunities to bring people together and build partnerships between state and local government, the private sector, and non-government organizations to create results and improve the quality of life for Maryland residents. Constellation's donation of land to support recreation and conservation is a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together. ”**

**LARRY HOGAN**  
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

the Town of Port Deposit was held at the trailhead of the Wildflower Trail in Conowingo Fisherman's Park on Saturday, October 15, 2022. HLT Executive Director Kristin Kirkwood presented remarks following addresses from Constellation, Governor Hogan, and the Chesapeake Conservancy.

The land donation is a collaborative effort between Constellation, the State of Maryland, and local, county, and state conservation and environment agencies and non-profit organizations, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, Port Deposit, Havre de Grace, HLT, Cecil Land Trust and Chesapeake Conservancy.

**“ I am ecstatic for all of the citizens of the City of Havre de Grace as we continue to improve our quality of life with the City's ongoing expansion of public recreation opportunities. We have always cherished what life offers here where the Susquehanna River meets the Chesapeake Bay and, with the generosity of Constellation Energy, our citizens will enjoy a new waterfront park and trails along a magnificent shoreline. ”**

**BILL MARTIN**  
MAYOR OF HAVRE DE GRACE



From left to right: HLT Executive Director Kristin Kirkwood; Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, and Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Executive Director Brigitte Carty (left photos by: Governor's Office; right photo by: Constellation)



photo by Constellation

The property will serve as a riverfront greenway and become part of local and state park systems. Publicly accessible lands in the Upper Chesapeake Bay bring national and international attention to the Bay's significant natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources.

The donated land will be permanently protected from development and private sale for the benefit of the public. Such protection will promote healthy ecosystems and habitats, bolster environmental stewardship and literacy and support climate resiliency.

Constellation's land donation is expected to occur in 2023.

**“ The Susquehanna River is part of our identity in Harford County. It brings us tremendous joy to know that the riverfront will remain undeveloped forever. A land donation of this size and significance is truly remarkable and we thank Constellation for this forward-thinking gift. ”**

**KRISTIN KIRKWOOD**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Harford Land Trust

# Belle Vue Circle

Members who donate \$1,000 or more each year are welcomed into Harford Land Trust's Belle Vue Circle.

When you become a Belle Vue Circle member, you are among the visionary leaders committed to investing in the organization protecting Harford County's treasured landscapes and quality of life—the Harford Land Trust.

Gifts at this level allow the Harford Land Trust to take advantage of strategic opportunities when they arise. Belle Vue Circle members give us the stability to weather challenges and the flexibility to respond to the highest conservation priorities each year.

# Restoring the Land, Acre by Acre

We of the Harford Land Trust are laser-focused on land conservation and have been since our founding in 1991. Sometimes, luckily, the opportunity arises to bring complementary benefits to county citizens.

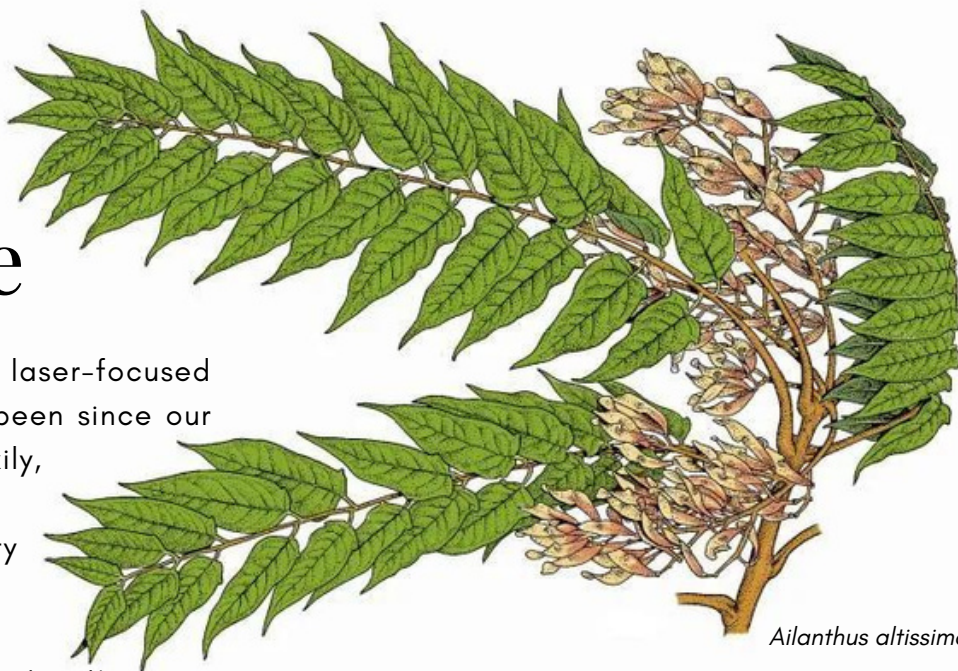
Land conservation and land restoration are two sides of the same coin.

So, when the land trust was asked to serve as the nonprofit recipient of state funds in partnership with Watershed Environmental, LLC, an environmental consulting company, we didn't hesitate.

Bruce Mulligan, of Green Field Point Farm in Street, will soon carry out a significant wetland and riparian buffer enhancing project on his property thanks to a state grant. The Farm produces hay and raises small livestock.

HLT was awarded \$119,277 in funding by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund to restore 1.75 acres of wetlands, 1.35 acres of riparian forest buffer plantings, and the removal of approximately 0.5 acres of Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). These noxious species serve as a food source for another invasive species, the spotted lanternfly.

The restored wetland and surrounding riparian buffer will filter and cool water as it flows through the ecosystem to improve water quality and habitat conditions downstream.



*Ailanthus altissima*

The project began in mid-November 2022 and should be completed by December 2023.

“ This project will accelerate what would naturally occur in this ecosystem. Redoing the topography of the area such that there's greater groundwater recharge, and it can become a wetland where this groundwater and surface water kind of commingle for longer. ”

JACKIE KOEHN  
LAND PROGRAMS MANAGER

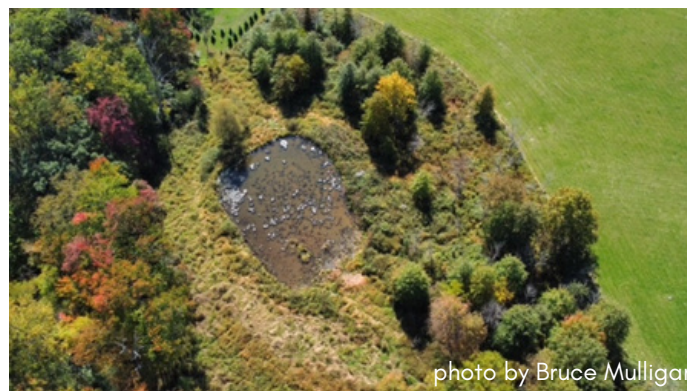


photo by Bruce Mulligan



# Party to Preserve

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On Saturday, October 22, HLT celebrated its first annual *Party to Preserve* at the historic Seven Springs Farm in Darlington. It was a beautiful afternoon to celebrate and support HLT's land conservation work in Harford County.

After the enthusiasm for HLT's 2021 event at Belle Vue, it was clear that the team had to keep showcasing beautifully preserved properties during HLT's signature event.

Nine times out of 10, people get most excited about preserving a property after seeing it with their own eyes, walking on it, taking in its natural beauty, absorbing its history, and being dazzled by it.

Sharing the story of the land and the people that love it brings land preservation to life. This is also what brings the work of HLT to life. That is how *Party to Preserve* came to be.

*Party to Preserve* guests enjoyed a farm tour by our hosts, Dorothy Hurt, Barbara Reese, Andrew Currie, and Aaron Young. The Mayo Family band kept everyone tapping their toes. And auctioneer Derek Hopkins entertained with a live auction.

With the help of the many sponsors and supporters, HLT raised over \$75,000 for land preservation in Harford County.

This support is so important - HLT needs the ability to move quickly to prevent critical properties from being lost forever. A resource-rich property can be sold, and so lost, in just a few days.

Thank you to everyone who made the event such a success. See you next year!

*Photos by: Topher Stevenson*



# Thank you to our *Party to Preserve* sponsors!



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## Annual Sponsors



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OUT AND  
ABOUT  
ON THE



**Take a Hike** participants  
Melissa and Rick Meinke



**Take a Hike** participants  
The Cosenza Family



Private tour of Flowers by Bauers greenhouses  
**HLT's Belle Vue Circle**



**Kayak Poker Run** participants  
Photo by Chuck Mezan



**Kayak Poker Run** participants  
Photo by Chuck Mezan



**Take a Hike** participants  
Susquehanna State Park

**Experience in nature is an essential part of life.** Access to open space supports our physical and mental well being.

HLT's vision includes creating opportunities for everyone in Harford County to experience and fall in love with nature—every child, every family, every community. We rely on our land and waters for solace, adventure, exercise, and inspiration.

HLT's 12-month **Take a Hike** challenge included both spring and fall guided hikes. Now in its ninth year, HLT's annual **Kayak Poker Run**, held in August on the Bush River, attracted over 100 paddlers.

We also kicked off the first in our series of **Belle Vue Circle Behind the Scenes Tours** at Flowers by Bauers greenhouses in White Hall.



Harford Land Trust, Inc.  
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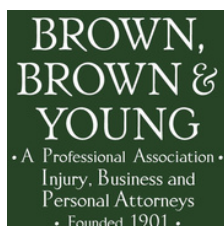
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## Thank you to our 2022 Annual Sponsors!



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