

CHARLES COUNTY LANDSCAPES

Newsletter Resumes!!!

After a long pause, the Conservancy for Charles County will begin to publish a quarterly newsletter to keep members up to date on the activities of the organization. Outside contributions of content are welcome. The mission of the Conservancy for Charles County is to promote land conservation, the preservation of the important resources, open space, and farmland that makes our county. As such, the Conservancy aims to inform members of issues of importance, and about activities of like-minded organizations operating within the county.

Contributions in the form of prepared articles (email or Microsoft Word) can be sent to Chris Zabriskie, Chair of the Publicity Committee, at zabriskiect@gmail. Chris can also be contacted at 240-320-6694.

President's Message

President Hal Delaplaine submitted a president's message summarizing activities in 2018 which was distributed by mail to members in January. In it he touted the achievements of the conservancy over the past year. Included in these accomplishments was the Conservancy's being assigned stewardship of a 208-acre tract of county-owned land in the Mattawoman watershed informally known as the "Tech Park." This conservation easement was not an easy decision for the county with many local development-interested groups still holding out hope that this would become an economic driver for the area. But in the end, after weighing options at numerous public hearings, at which The Conservancy was represented, the county elected that the preservation value and it's value for preservation, environmental education, and passive recreation outweighed the changes for development.

Otherwise, The Conservancy was busy monitoring the status of conservation easements, and spreading the message of environmental preservation and natural resource conservation at outreach events such as ArtsFest, Nanjemoy Heritage Day and the Southern Maryland Crops Conference.

Partners in Preservation

The Conservancy for Charles County is a county-wide land trust that is dedicated to environmental preservation in the county. But it's not the only preservation-minded organization in the county. The Conservancy is interested in working closer with other organizations.

The Port Tobacco River Conservancy

The Port Tobacco River Conservancy (PTRC), under the leadership of president Tina Wilson, is active in cleanup and preservation in the Port Tobacco River Watershed. Not only does this organization organize cleanup efforts at Chapel Point State Park and the new Port Tobacco River Park, but hosts monthly social engagements known as Green Drinks. Also, the PTRC recently hosted an annual Chocolate Fest on February 1st to raise funds for a planned environmental education center at James Craik Elementary School in Pomfret.



Mattawoman Watershed Society

The Mattawoman Watershed Society protects land in the Mattawoman Creek's watershed. They were active last year in opposing a natural gas compressor station near Bryan's Road. Under joint pressure from the Mattawoman Watershed Society and Mt. Vernon Ladies Association, Dominion Energy's permit application for special zoning was denied, and Dominion decided not to contest that decision.



Other Organizations...

There are many other organizations that are active. If you would like us to share information about an organization or project with members of the Charles County Conservancy, please let us know by contacting Chris Zabriskie at zabriskiect@gmail.com.

Walk Pomonkey Forrest

One of the recent efforts initiated by the Mattawoman Watershed Society was to schedule monthly walks at the county's "Tech Park" property behind Matthew Henson Middle School. The group invites members of the public interested in making use of this county land to meet by the tennis courts monthly, at 1pm on the second Sunday of every month. The school is located at 3535 Livingston Road, Indian Head, MD. For more information about this check out <http://www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org/events>

Opportunities to Get Involved

If you share a passion for protecting the natural world in and want to get involved with the board of directors helping to monitor easements, plan outreach events, or manage our affairs, The Conservancy for Charles County is an all-volunteer organization and would welcome your contribution. Ask about opportunities to get involved or contact The Conservancy at CharlesConservancy@hotmail.com.

Education and Outreach

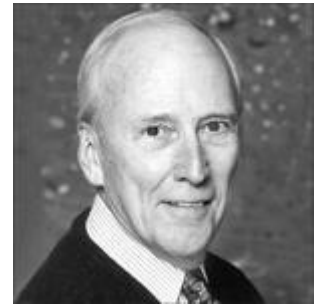
In 2018, Conservancy Board Member, Chris Zabriskie, attended the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh, PA. This three-day event allowed him, a new board member since the end of 2017, to learn more about land conservation, strategies for managing land easements, ways to promote outdoor engagement and education, and make contacts with other like-minded people in the United States who meet each year to discuss how best to protect our lands. The 2019 event will be held in Raleigh-Durham, NC from October 16th through 19th. People interested in attending should contact the Conservancy to find out what is required to participate, and how such knowledge and education can be parleyed to the benefit of the county. For information about the Land Trust Alliance of LTA Rally see <https://alliancerally.org>.

The 2019 Maryland Land Conservation Conference will take place May 16-17th at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, MD. This is largest conservation gathering and only land trust convocation of its kind in Maryland. Admission will be \$100 and the agenda is still being finalized, but should include a number of topics of interest to land conservation and environmental preservation specific to Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Our Heritage

At The Conservancy's fall membership meeting on October 19th, long-time member and former board member, Lloyd Bowling, Sr., was honored for his service and dedication to preserving the landscape in Charles County by bestowing on him the annual "Heritage Award". Lloyd was in attendance to accept the award, but died peacefully at his home, Westwood Manor, in early December. Rather than as a plaque or certificate, The Conservancy decided to honor Lloyd's Heritage Award with a permanent memorial, a brick in front of the Port Tobacco Players' theater in La Plata. Lloyd shared a life-long passion for community theater along with environmental preservation having appeared in the second-ever production of PTP in 1949. Another permanent legacy... Lloyd placed his family estate, Westwood Manor, a historic 18th century property on Allen's Fresh in Charlotte Hall, MD, under a conservation easement to preserve the natural viewscapes found there in perpetuity. The Conservancy for Charles County will continue to monitor the stewardship of this property to make sure that Lloyd's vision and legacy remains preserved.



Join Us for Drinks!

On March 14th, 2019, The Conservancy for Charles County will be joining the Port Tobacco River Conservancy for a joint-Green Drinks happy hour at The Green Turtle in La Plata. Come at 6:30pm and enjoy drinks, appetizers, and fellowship with the conservation community. This will be an opportunity to share ideas and get to know each other.

You can expect short programs from each organization about ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives.

Where: The Green Turtle, 6 St. Mary's Avenue, La Plata, MD
When: Thursday, March 14th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Editor's Note:

Please contact me by April 15 if you have a story, photos, or announcement to share for the spring newsletter, due out in May 2019.

Chris Zabriskie - zabriskiect@gmail.com, 240-320-6694

Please renew or join for 2019!

Please indicate payment of your membership dues only, donation only, or both when you send in the form below. Remember that your dues and donations to the Conservancy are tax deductible. Your dues and donations are critical to continue our work.

You can also renew or join from our website using PayPal at conservecharles.org!

Don't let your membership lapse- we need your help to preserve the natural and historical landscapes of Charles County!

Please join us to help preserve Charles County's natural and historic landscapes. Fill out the form below to become a member or otherwise contribute.

Annual dues—

___individual \$35 ___family \$50 ___student \$15 ___organization \$100

Dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Conservancy is listed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization with the State of Maryland.

Name(s): _____

Organization (if organization membership): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send the Newsletter by e-mail only to conserve resources _____

Annual dues enclosed \$ _____

Added contribution \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make your check out to "Conservancy for Charles County, Inc." and mail with this form to:
Conservancy for Charles County, P.O. Box 1358, Waldorf, MD 20604

**Conservancy for Charles
County, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1358
Waldorf, MD 20604

Phone:
301-932-5714

E-Mail:
info@conservecharles.org

**Quiet forests.
Green and golden fields
crisscrossed with streams.
Historic homes, silvery
cedar barns, scenic roads.
All worth preserving for
today and forever.**



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P.O. Box 1358
Waldorf, Maryland 20604

