

ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010 July 2010

PO Box 333
McHenry, Maryland 21541
www.AlleghenyHighlandsConservancy.org

About Allegheny Highlands Conservancy (AHC)

AHC is a local land trust, a nonprofit organization incorporated in 2004. AHC was formed by local residents concerned about the rapid development in Garrett County resulting in loss of valuable farms and forests. By accepting donations of the development rights of properties (called conservation easements) AHC actively works with willing landowners who wish to conserve their land. Conservation easements combine resource protection with substantial income and property tax benefits, while reserving for the landowner all rights of ownership, occupancy, and privacy.

AHC Mission: *To conserve the natural resources, scenic beauty, and rural character of the Allegheny Highlands of Maryland*

AHC Purposes:

- To protect and conserve land, water, and natural resources of the Allegheny Highlands region
- To promote the preservation, protection and stewardship of forest, scenic, natural, wildlife, recreational and agricultural land and water resources
- To partner with the community to conserve working rural farms and forests
- To serve as a conservation information resource for landowners and land managers
- To provide a forum for community understanding and support of land and water conservation issues

FY2010 Board of Directors:

Kevin Dodge, President
Courtney Englar, Vice President
Bob Lewis, Treasurer
Liz McDowell, Corresponding Secretary
Bill Tunney, Recording Secretary
Carol Bartram
Ron Boyer
Nancy-Elizabeth Nimmich

Coordinator -
Services provided part-time by
Laura Haynes

Statement of Financial Position
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

FY 2010 Revenue

Type of Revenue

Memberships and Donations	\$2,935
Fund-raising	\$ 520
Interest Income	\$ 56.93
<u>Hollmann Grant FY2011</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$8,511.93

FY2010 Expenses

Coordinator's Services	\$5,499
Membership Drive	\$ 153.38
LTA Dues	\$ 225
<u>General/Admin.</u>	<u>\$ 167.75</u>
Total Expenses	\$6,045.13

FY2010 Net Gain	\$2,466.80
FY2009 Year End Balance	\$9,485.99

FY2010 Year End Balance	\$ 11,952.79
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 6,952.79

Grants - With \$4,290 support provided by the 2008 Hollmann Grant, AHC was able to place a part-time temporary coordinator position in August 2009. Through this position and the work of dedicated volunteers, AHC has expanded its membership base, enhanced outreach efforts, and initiated a volunteer easement monitoring program. In June 2010 AHC received a second grant in the amount of \$5,000 to continue work that will enhance stewardship and outreach efforts.

Land Conservation – AHC conservation easements are all co-held with Maryland Environmental Trust (MET). With the partner support of MET, AHC accepts donations of conservations easements in western Maryland in order to obtain financial benefits for the landowners and protect the conservation easement in perpetuity. Since inception, AHC has acquired holdings of conservation easements on 1,164 acres of land in Garrett County. Current easements have primarily been donated by landowners who wish to preserve their land. The following table is a list of easement holdings as of June 30, 2010.

Dillon Award - Alverta and Louise Dillon, sisters and retired school teachers, donated a perpetual conservation easement and then bequeathed their entire Garrett County property to the Maryland Environmental Trust in 1984.

Features of prominence and pride cited by Alverta and Louise are a pond for waterfowl, a substantial home built in 1928, a smokehouse, a barn, and a circa 1800 springhouse. The property is included in the Maryland Historical

<u>Conservation Easements</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Boyer & McDowell	66.6
Weise	60.5
Weise & Bartram	64.9
Bear Creek Ranch	
Weitzell	745.1
Moors	99.1
Raesly	24.2
Braitman	24.6
Wright	78.6
Total	1,163.6

Trust's Historic Sites Survey.

Alverta and Louise were dedicated naturalists and enthusiastic about conservation and enhancement of the many resources found on their land. Their generous bequest is maintained as an endowment to support the activities and mission of MET, in accordance with the wishes of the Dillon family.

The Dillon Award is made annually by MET to a landowner for outstanding conservation. The Dillon Award 2008 is made to Kathryn Weise and Carol Bartram for their easement donation at Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County.

Stewardship & Outreach - In the fall of 2009 AHC began a volunteer easement monitoring program to regularly monitor easement holdings. MET officials work with AHC volunteers to provide training in easement monitoring and stewardship practices. With the goal to monitor each easement biannually, AHC has set a schedule with plans to monitor all current easements between July 2010 and September 2011.

Outreach activities included presenting at the 2009 Appalachian festival, hosting a webinar viewing in March 2010 about Marcellus shale drilling, and a guest speaker for the 2010 annual meeting held at the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center in May.

Over the past year AHC volunteers have worked to expand the group's membership base and to update outreach materials including the development of a logo, presentation materials, and brochure and website updates. We have a newly adopted AHC logo; digitized logo courtesy of Steve Amarillo, original artwork courtesy of Carol Bartram. A small scale membership drive conducted in November 2009 produced an increase in the group membership from 21 to 57 members by the end of FY2010.



AHC Volunteers (right to left) Liz McDowell, Courtney Englar, and Carol Bartram, with MET official Megan Sines (far left), participate in easement monitoring of the Wright property.

Thank You!

The success of Allegheny Highland Conservancy depends on the extraordinary generosity of those who are committed to conserving the natural resources, scenic beauty, and rural character of the Allegheny Highlands of Maryland. Our members and volunteers play a key role in developing organizational sustainability. We are grateful for their generous contributions of both time and financial support.

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, and foundations that made gifts or grants from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. You have made a lasting difference to AHC and residents of the Allegheny Highlands in western Maryland.

Sustaining Members & Donors \$100-\$150

Betty E. Hummel
Bill & Fran Pope
Bob & Marg Lewis
Carol & Scott Bartram
Chris & Laura Haynes
Ihor and Sandra Zakaluzny
Jessie M. Harris
Kenny & Annie Braitman
Nancy Railey
Natalie F. Atherton
Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell
Tom & Joan Kelsch

Individual Members & Donors \$35-\$49

Barbara M. Johnson
Christine Price
Courtney Englar
Donna Gates
Edgar Harman
Gayle Farrar
Helen Englar
James Edward Frantz
Joe McDaniel
Jerry Michener

Individual Members & Donors (cont.) \$35-\$49

Kathy Weise
Kevin Dodge
Lynn McDaniel
Megan Sines
Mohsen Chitsaz
Nancy Elizabeth Nimmich
Rick Bailey
Roy Weitzell
Virginia K. Weise

Family Members & Donors \$50-\$74

Anthony & Judy Kuester
Becky Wilson
Bill & Kathy Tunney
Bob & Sharon Kazary
Caroline Blizzard
Dan Feller & Sunshine Brosi
Don & Debbie McCombs
Donna Martin
George & Madeleine Collins
Michael & Jo Anna
Lutmerding
Mike & Robin Broder
Rich & Elaine Raesly

Business/Organizational Members & Donors \$75-\$99

Donnelle Keech, -
The Nature Conservancy

Other Donations

\$200 Anonymous
\$25 Fred & Marie Bolton
\$25 Marilyn Moors

Grants

\$5,000 Maryland
Environmental Trust, 2010
Jan Hollmann grant
program for land trusts.