

Chesapeake Bay String of Pearls

Talbot County Courthouse

Easton, Maryland

December 8th, 2011



Ceremony

- Welcome: Robert Duckworth, Clerk, Circuit Court Anne Arundel County, CBSOP Board Member
- Purpose of the String of Pearls Project: Dick Lahn, Director CBSOP
- Introduction of Honorees/Remarks about properties: Rob Etgen, Exec Director ESLC
- Presentation of Citations
- Signing of Register administered by Robert Duckworth
- Final Words: Dick Lahn

Reception: Follows immediately at the Historical Society of Talbot County

Thank You to the following supporters for providing food and drink for the reception: Epic Wines, Rik Squillari, Crofton, MD; Cheese: Chapel's Country Creamery, Easton, MD; Cookies and compostable cups and plates: A Cook's Cafe, Annapolis, MD

The Chesapeake Bay String of Pearls Project

Welcome!

The Chesapeake Bay String of Pearls Project and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy are happy you are here today to recognize and celebrate those who have contributed to preserving lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are also here to witness the registering of “pearls” in the Chesapeake Bay String of Pearls Register. The register will be in permanent public view in the circuit courthouse on Church Circle in Annapolis in recognition of those who have acted to preserve land and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The "string" connecting pearls are corridors of land, water, wildlife and people unified in harmony to maintain the health of the Chesapeake Bay region. Individual “Pearls” -- land protected from development in perpetuity -- form the framework for the corridors to hold the landscape together. Pearls everywhere is the goal of this project.

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is committed to preserving and sustaining the vibrant communities of the Eastern Shore and the lands and waters that connect them. Besides those we are honoring today it is ESLC and its staff who are the real heroes of this story. They are doing the difficult job: saving the Chesapeake Bay one property at a time.

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy has nominated the five properties and holds the easements on all of them. The five creators of pearls honored today preserved land in watersheds of Talbot and Caroline counties. Each property is different and each has its own story as to why it was protected. The commonality between these land owners is that they came forward and acted. Their action protects the Bay to the benefit of all of us.

Dick Lahn



Daffin Farm

John Jaeger

Tuckahoe River Watershed, Caroline County

Daffin Farm, in Hillsboro, was preserved in December of 2002 with 268.202 acres including over 13,000 feet along the Tuckahoe River. Christian Elleke, the previous owner, created the easement protecting the property. Since purchasing the property, John Jaeger has lovingly restored the main house and has done extensive conservation restoration work on the property including creating meadows full of native species.

The house was built in 1783 by Charles Daffin, who received a patent for the land in 1784, under the name Daffin's Farm. Originally a one-and-a-half story brick house, it expanded over the years. The largest portion of the house, built later, was influenced by Georgian and Federal architecture.



Robins Creek Preserve

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Choptank River and Robins Creek Watersheds, Caroline County

Robins Creek Preserve was donated to ESLC in 1999 for wildlife habitat by Mary Lynch in memory of her husband Jim Lynch, Sr. It includes 206.081 acres bordered by both the Choptank River and Robins Creek. The forest has public walking trails.

Mary Lynch grew up on a farm which included the now protected property near Two Johns Landing on the Choptank. Her husband developed some of the fields for the Two Johns subdivision -- now famous for its Christmas lights -- but preserved the forest because his wife Mary grew up walking that forest and still liked to walk there. Later, she donated the land to ESLC to protect the property and allow for an education center to be constructed in the future.



Daffin House

DENTON

Robbins Creek Preserve

Caroline County Watershed



Wye House

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tilghman
Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Talbot County

Wye House is the most complete example of a late eighteenth-century plantation remaining in Maryland. This architecturally significant house, with many of its colonial furnishings, is still surrounded by croplands, gardens, and outbuildings. The land on which Wye House stands has been owned by members of the Lloyd family since the seventeenth century. Much of their current holdings are protected in perpetual conservation easements by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and the Maryland Environmental Trust. Sixteen other properties in the immediate vicinity of Wye House, including three "Wye Pups" (properties of Lloyd offspring) also have permanent conservation easements. The easements were donated in 1993 on 311.778 acres of land.

The property is rich with history, not only because of its owners, some of the founders of Maryland, such as Edward Lloyd IV, who served as a delegate from Maryland to the Continental Congress, and Edward Lloyd V was Maryland's 13th governor, as well as serving as a U.S. Congressman and a state Senator and delegate. Edward Lloyd IV built the current main house on the property. As a boy Frederick Douglass spent time there as a slave when the property operated as a plantation. The property is also home to an orangery, an example of an early American horticulture building, which was capable of growing citrus fruits, among other things. A recent addition of a living shoreline points to the Tilghman family's commitment to preserving the property and its shores.





Little Haven-On-Bay

Mr. Eben Lothrop

Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Talbot County

Little Haven-On-Bay is 176.62 acres of preserved land bordered by routes 33, 451 and Eastern Bay. Protected in April of 1997 this property has over 300 feet of waterfront and is still owned by the original grantor of the easement, Mr. Lothrop who has also been a long time supporter of ESLC.

Little Haven-on-Bay is in the now quiet but once part of the hopping village of Claiborne in Talbot County. Before the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge was built, Claiborne was a ferry stop where people from the western shore would arrive in the evening and stay the night. In the morning, travelers would board the train to Ocean City. Claiborne was full of boarding houses to accommodate travelers. Some travelers would board row boats to cross the little cove to arrive at Little Haven-on-Bay for evening entertainment. Now, the farm is quiet and preserved, thanks to Eben Lothrop, who has owned the farm most of his life.



East End Neighborhood Association Garden

Ms. Joyce DeLaurentis
Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Talbot County

This project denotes the beginnings of ESLC's organizational focus on communities. The East End Neighborhood Association community garden project reflects a spirit of inclusiveness that serves local community priorities and reaches a diverse population.

The garden at 215 South Street in Easton was started in 1992, and has been a volunteer-driven project, led by Joyce DeLaurentis. Prior to his death the owner of the property Mr. Sallworth let people use the property for a garden. After he died the estate was selling off its holdings on the shore, and the garden lot was to go on the market.

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In late August of 2007 Joyce DeLaurentis of the EENA approached ESLC asking if the Conservancy could help purchase the lot and turn it over to the town of Easton for continued use as a community garden.

In settling the estate the property was priced much lower than market value, and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy bought it. The Kerr Fund also helped with funding. Later, ESLC gave the land to the Town of Easton under the condition the town would put an easement on the land. Today, the garden thrives.



String of Pearls Board of Directors

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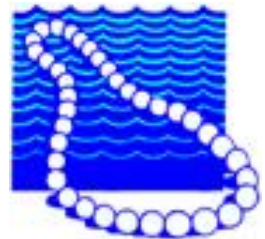




Photo: NASA/GSFC/JPL, MISR