

# News From the GVC

## GVC Receives \$100,000 Restoration Grant!



This September, the GVC received a \$100,000 grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to conduct an environmental education program and implement upland restoration projects in the Jennifer Branch watershed. The GVC will work with a committed group of partner organizations which includes the Greater Parkville Community Council, the Center for Watershed Protection, the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM), the Baltimore County Master Gardeners, the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Biohabitats.

The project is designed to protect and restore Jennifer Branch, a suburban stream located within the neighborhoods of Carney and Cub Hill that has been negatively impacted by stormwater runoff. Over the years an increase of impervious surfaces from new development, paved driveways, parking lots, and roads within stream buffer areas has created an increase in the velocity and volume of stormwater runoff. This situation creates flooding, forces sediment downstream, and erodes stream banks exposing tree roots, and sanitary sewer pipes, compromising the stability and aesthetics of the stream. In addition, soil and plants, which act as a natural filter for pollutants and sediment, are displaced by impervious surfaces. As a result pollutants enter the stream which impacts water quality, aquatic life, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) and its partners will help restore the Jennifer Branch by offering workshops on a variety of restoration techniques and providing technical support and financial assistance to residents who want to take action. For example, one simple action that residents can take is disconnecting their downspouts so that the water can soak into the ground on their property, rather than being discharged into the stream. Another beneficial technique is installing rain barrels to catch and store the rainwater from rooftops for uses such as watering gardens and lawns. The Master Gardeners and the GVC will also help residents make their yards more beautiful while protecting the stream through Bay-friendly landscaping and gardening practices. This includes installing rain gardens to absorb and filter stormwater, Baycaping (replacing lawns with native plants), and planting permaculture gardens which produce food while helping to control stormwater. Residents who implement these practices will have the opportunity to get their yards certified through the Master Gardener's Bay Wise program. In addition, residents can volunteer to plant trees along the stream and organize stream clean-ups through the GVC's Stream Watch program.

*(continued on page 3)*

### Fall

### 2009

#### Special Points of Interest:

- GVC Receives \$100,000 NFWF Grant
- GVC Celebrates 20th Anniversary

#### Inside this issue:

President's Letter	2
Volunteer Appreciation	4
Leave a Legacy	5
GVC Calendar	7

## Letter from the President: GVC Celebrates 20 Years

Reflecting back on this journey brings forth many wonderful accomplishments, dedicated people and partnering organizations that have made our dreams a reality. In December of 1989, the GVC was officially incorporated initially with a three-member board of directors: Mary Frances Shepperd; Elizabeth W. Miller; and Edward Stuebing who was the first president, serving in that position for six years and subsequently, as treasurer for the past 14 years. We have them to thank for their vision and commitment to the preservation of our natural and historic heritage for future generations. A special thanks to the Greater Kingsville Civic Association and the Long Green Valley Association who provided the initial funding to establish the GVC.



*Trail Maintenance*

Accomplishments in the area of land and historic preservation, education and restoration are extensive:

- ♦ Preserved 1400 acres within the Gunpowder watershed through conservation easements working with Maryland's Rural Legacy Program, Baltimore County's Land Preservation Program, MD Environmental Trust and MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.
- ♦ Coordinated 10 years of major clean ups within the Gunpowder Falls State Park, extending from Days Cove to the Hereford Area, ending in 1999 with a "mission accomplished" from GFSP headquarters, and under the leadership of Tina Bianca, developed a working relationship with the GFSP to expand volunteer opportunities and promote educational programs.
- ♦ Coordinated trail maintenance within the GFSP under the leadership of Ted Brower and established under the leadership of Linda Eminizer an adopt-a-trail program.
- ♦ Coordinated the planting of 17,000 trees partnering with fellow governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the Baltimore County Forest Conservancy District Board, MD Dept of Natural Resources, Baltimore County Dept of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, MD Save Our Streams and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, to name a few.
- ♦ Conducted and participated in numerous educational workshops and festivals on subjects from land and historic preservation, community greening, ecology, geo-hydrology, storm water management systems, stream adoption through the Stream Watch Program to "Mud Busters" - erosion and sediment control on construction sites.
- ♦ Conducted stream monitoring and clean ups initially with MD Save Our Streams and Baltimore County and most recently with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Project Clean Stream Program.
- ♦ Supported the Friends of Loch Raven, under the leadership of Paula Kurrus and Con Manning in four annual clean ups of Loch Raven Reservoir that subsequently have been incorporated into Project Clean Stream.
- ♦ Coordinated the preservation of Franklinville in Kingsville as an historic village, under the leadership of Marlene Rollins, and was instrumental in the initial phases of the preservation of Long Island Farm in Cromwell Valley under the leadership of Jim Kelly, culminating in establishing Historic Long Island Farm, Inc.,



*Dept of Aging Volunteers*

All of this would not have been possible without four essential ingredients: 1) The dedication of the GVC board members, including Neal Carmody who was president for the past 9 years; 2) Our volunteers - Crew Chiefs who supervise our restoration and education programs, members and thousands of volunteers from local schools, service clubs, scout groups, churches and partnering organizations; 3) Our funders including private local Foundations – Abell, France Merrick, MBNA, Bunting Foundation, and governmental organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Baltimore County Watershed Assistance Grants, National Fish



*LR Marriot Volunteers at GVC Tree Planting*

## GVC Celebrates 20 Years *(continued from previous page)*

& Wildlife Foundation, local businesses such as Grauls Markets, REI, Baltimore Gas & Electric, Proctor & Gamble Cosmetics AND members like you; 4) And most importantly, the talented and experienced part-time staff - Ann Jones for land preservation, Karen Stupski for development and Peggy Perry for education and restoration programs.

Lastly, I personally want to acknowledge four individuals who have played a transitional role in our evolution: Judy Waldman and Henry Baker for their inspiration and leadership in the development of the Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area, Morry Wexler of the Timonium Kiwanis Club for his nurturing of the Dulaney High School Key Club who have diligently been providing student volunteers for tree plantings since 1994, and the late but always present Jo Owen of the Reservoir Watershed Protection Coalition for her enthusiastic and unbending commitment to the protection of our drinking water reservoirs for all generations.

With the leadership and dedication of our board, staff, crew chiefs, and continued support from our members, volunteers and funders, the GVC can look forward to another 20 years of increasing stewardship of the natural and historic heritage within the Gunpowder Watershed!

Best Wishes,

*Charlie Conklin*  
President

## GVC Receives \$100,000 grant *(continued from first page)*

Work will begin this fall with an upland assessment designed to find the best places within the watershed to take restoration actions. The GVC will mobilize a group of volunteers to visually inspect the watershed and complete the assessment forms. The Center for Watershed Protection will train the volunteers, analyze the data, and provide a report. The project boundaries are Joppa Road on the south, Old Harford Road on the west, Gunpowder Falls Park on the north, and the power lines near Simms Avenue of the east.

This project is designed to complement a stream restoration project that Baltimore County is planning to conduct on 4,500 feet of the suburban Jennifer Branch. The restoration actions taken by residents on their properties will help the stream recover and protect it from further damage. With cooperation of local residents, the project will reduce the amount of stormwater, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment delivered into the Jennifer Branch and Chesapeake Bay, while making the neighborhood more beautiful.

This is one of 32 projects that were funded through NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program which provides grants to support innovative, community-based conservation projects in the areas of wildlife habitat restoration, watershed planning, and water quality improvement. Collectively, these projects help the Chesapeake Bay Program (a partnership between the federal government and the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia) meet its goals for restoring the health and resources of the Bay ecosystem.

*Development Committee (by Karen Stupski, Development Director)*



*Students at Gunpowder Day*

## 2009 Individual Volunteer Acknowledgement

The GVC was fortunate enough to have had over 1,000 volunteers in 2008 work with us on everything from tree plantings, stream adoptions and cleanups, Project Clean Stream, rain barrel and rain garden installations to land preservation activities. We are pleased that the amount of restoration, conservation, and educational events continue to increase every year. But this is possible only because of our amazing volunteers and that more people from local schools, businesses, churches, scout groups, community groups, and individual residents continue to volunteer their time and energy to the GVC. In fact, by the end of 2009 we expect our volunteer numbers to increase to over 1,300!

Since we are a non-profit conservation organization, we have a small part time staff, and therefore are dependent upon our incredible volunteers to accomplish all that we have in the years past, and all that is planned for the future. In light of this, we would like to acknowledge some of our current key individual volunteers who have given abundant energy, time, ideas, resources and commitment to the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy and our restoration programs. We are extremely grateful for their leadership and spirit of volunteerism!

We would first like to acknowledge our core tree planting Crew Chiefs. For without them, we simply could not succeed in planting over 2,000 trees on 12 riparian buffer and upland forest acres each year. So, thank you Charlie Conklin, Pat Novak, Jim Kelly, Bob Batchelor, Bob Crush, Tom Earnst, John Hobner, Eric Crawford, Diana Guiteirez, Jan Reis, Marian Tamburino, Dante Tamburino, Dean Yosua, and Tiiu Mayer for an incredible job well done in 2008 and spring of 2009! We appreciate each of you and your commitment to do it again this fall!

We would also like to thank some key Stream Watch volunteers who after adopting one or more streams have continually completed stream clean ups and data collection on the health of the stream. The combined efforts of these key volunteers and the rest of our Stream Watch volunteers resulted in nearly 6,000 lbs of trash collected in spring of 2009 alone. Their leadership and commitment to the health of the Gunpowder Watershed and ultimately Chesapeake Bay is highly appreciated. We would like to thank these team leaders especially: Leslie Erickson and J.Wright Witcher on Loveton Farms stream; Alex Antkowiak and Marc Meoli on Mine Bank Run at Cromwell Valley Park; Angela Middleton and Jean Lancaster on Mine Bank Run at Cromwell Valley Elementary; and Kit Slafkosky and Suzanne Merryman on Sherwood Episcopal Church stream. Again, this amount of critical restoration work cannot be done without the commitment and dedication of each of you! Thank you!

In addition, we would like to thank one key volunteer who has made it possible for the GVC to distribute 33 rain barrels into the community this year alone, thereby decreasing storm water impacts on our environment. John Miller has committed his time, skill, and energy for the past 2 years assembling barrels at 10 rain barrel workshops. His work has also enabled the GVC to receive significant restoration funds. With each rain barrel distributed into the community, the GVC receives a restoration donation, and these funds are critical to our ongoing restoration programs. John has not only used his tools and skills to assemble rain barrels for community members since fall of 2008, but also has shared his knowledge and experience with workshop participants on installation techniques and practical advice. Thank you John for making our rain barrel workshops possible and so successful!

Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge and thank a key GVC volunteer, Con Manning. Con has been a long time GVC member and advocate. For the past 2 years Con has helped the GVC to assemble, edit, and mass mail our bi-annual newsletter. Thank you once again Con for your skill and patience in making this fall newsletter possible. Your work and volunteerism is highly appreciated!

*Education and Restoration Committee (by Peggy Perry, Program Director)*



*Tree Planting Crew Chiefs*



*Leslie Erickson*



*John Miller*

## Leave a Legacy—Give the Gift of a Sustainable Environment

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) is a nonprofit local environmental organization chartered in the State of Maryland in 1989. Its mission is to mobilize people and resources to care for the lands, waters and character of the Gunpowder Watershed. Its emphasis is on land preservation, restoration, stream cleanups and education. Through a committee of volunteers supported by part time staff, the GVC works in cooperation with local, state and national programs of government agencies, foundations and other conservation organizations to achieve its mission. The GVC has partnered with elementary, middle, high school and college students from throughout the Gunpowder Watershed on its education and restoration activities.

The GVC performs several important functions within the Gunpowder watershed. GVC Land Preservation Committee, in partnership with Baltimore County and Maryland through the Rural Legacy Program, works with property owners wishing to place their land in a conservation easement that preserves the natural and agricultural values of the land in perpetuity. The GVC also acts through its Education and Restoration Committee (ERC) to protect and restore the natural resources found within the watershed by creating and restoring stream buffers and wetlands, and conducting stream clean ups, as well as distributing rain barrels into the community through our rain barrel workshops.

Through summer of 2009, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Recreational Equipment, Inc., and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB), 1,213 trees have been planted on 6.25 riparian buffer or upland forest acres with the assistance of 458 volunteers. These volunteers came from 19 community groups (10 schools, 3 scout, 3 local businesses, 2 community groups, and 1 church group.) Our planting sites this spring were in Loch Raven Reservoir, Dulaney Branch, and Bee Tree Preserve. And, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) and the Stream Watch Program, the ERC worked with citizens, communities and scouts to adopt 20 streams. 184 of our Stream Watch volunteers collected over 5,500 lbs of trash just this spring throughout the Gunpowder Watershed. Also, ERC, along with the ACB, sponsored Project Clean Stream on the first Saturday in April 2009. GVC had 247 volunteers who collected 9 tons of trash from 10 stream locations, including parts of Loch Raven Reservoir. And finally, the GVC conducted 4 rain barrel workshops with 54 participants resulting in 33 rain barrel distributions into the community.

Upcoming fall efforts include plans to plant 800 trees on 4 acres of riparian and upland forest areas within Loch Raven Reservoir, Bee Tree Preserve, and Dulaney Branch; a trail maintenance workshop in Loch Raven Reservoir; 2 rain barrel workshops and 2 Stream Watch Trainings. (See our calendar of events page in this newsletter.)

If you would like more information about the GVC visit our website at [www.gunpowderfalls.org](http://www.gunpowderfalls.org) and click on our **new GVC video** on the home page. Or if you want to help the environment and leave a legacy of a healthy environment, become a member and/or volunteer, or if you know of any land that is a possible restoration site, please contact Peggy Perry, Program Director of Education and Restoration at 410-668-0118 or [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com).



Rainbarrel Workshop



Project Clean Stream Volunteers



Rosedale School Volunteers



Dept of Aging Volunteers



Stream Watch Volunteers



More Stream Watchers

## GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Yes! I want to become a member \_\_\_\_, or renew membership \_\_\_\_ with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy today to support GVC's conservation, education and restoration efforts within the Gunpowder Watershed.** As a volunteer organization, we depend on the efforts and support of our membership for the success of our work. As a member I will receive the bi-annual GVC Newsletter, discounts on rain barrels, and first priority for GVC events. I have enclosed a tax-deductible check for:

- |                                    |                                    |                                      |                                      |  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25-\$49 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50-\$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-\$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 or more |
| Supporting                         | Guardian                           | Steward                              | Champion                             | Patron                                   |

*Please make check out to **Gunpowder Valley Conservancy** and return in enclosed envelope to Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, PO Box 9733, Towson, MD 21284.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

*I'd like to volunteer for [check those that apply]:*

*My interests are :*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Restoration events:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stream clean-up events<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tree plantings<br><input type="checkbox"/> Adopting a stream<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Storm water reduction measures<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rain barrel assembly<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rain garden installation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Down spout disconnection<br><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Land preservation activities<br><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Historic preservation<br><input type="checkbox"/> 5. Outreach / PR / education / (speaking, writing, etc.)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6. Helping with mailings / office work | <input type="checkbox"/> a. Birds / wildlife<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. Hiking / boating / biking<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. Fishing / hunting<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. Gardening / trees / forestry<br><input type="checkbox"/> e. Stream science / ecology<br><input type="checkbox"/> f. Rain Barrels/Rain Gardens |
|---|---|

Come join us in our work!

## GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY 2009 Calendar of Events

GVC invites volunteers and participants to attend all starred events:



Date	Time	Event	Location
*Sept 19	10-2 pm	Stream Watch Training	Cromwell Valley Park
*Oct 3	9-1 pm	Tree Planting	Perry Hall
*Oct 10	9-2 pm	Trail Maintenance Workshop	Loch Raven Reservoir
Oct 16	9- noon	Tree Planting	Loch Raven Reservoir
*Oct 17	9:30-11:30 am	Rain Barrel Workshop	Camp Chapel Methodist Church
Oct 24	9-1 pm	Tree Planting	Loch Raven Reservoir
*Oct 31	9-1 pm	Tree Planting	Bee Tree Preserve
*Nov 7	10-2 pm	Stream Watch Training	Cromwell Valley Park
Nov 13	9:30 – 1 pm	Tree Planting	Loch Raven Reservoir
Nov 14	10-2 pm	Tree Planting	Dulaney Branch
*Nov 21	10-12 noon	Rain Barrel Workshop	Cromwell Valley Park

To volunteer or register for a workshop, contact Peggy Perry, Program Director of Gunpowder Valley Conservancy at 410-668-0118, c 443-415-7969 or at [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com) .

The schedule is subject to change.

### GVC Welcomes New Webmaster

The GVC would like to welcome Joe Longobardi as our new webmaster. Joe has been hired to create a new, more user friendly and attractive GVC website as well as to manage a new webpage designed specifically for the \$100,000 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant. For the past 6 months Joe volunteered his time, energy and skill in order to help the GVC maintain its website.

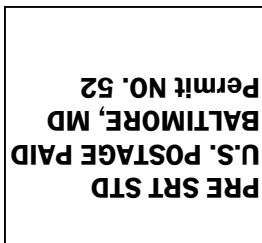
Joe is a Maryland native, growing up in Northern Baltimore County and currently lives in Phoenix. He currently works as a Senior Recruiter for a firm located in Cockeysville. As a recruiter, he enjoys helping match companies with qualified candidates throughout Maryland. During his free time, Joe loves spending time outdoors with his wife, Kim, and two dogs, Bernie and Manor. You can usually find them all taking walks along the Gunpowder or on local trails. He enjoys mountain biking when he can find time and working on projects around the house. He also is a saltwater coral and fish hobbyist.

Joe learned about the GVC while at REI shopping. After a few emails and phone calls, he went to his first tree planting and wanted to get involved further. Joe feels strongly that "Through stream cleanups, tree plantings, various programs and educating everyone especially our youth; we can make a positive impact in the environment we share."

Towson, MD 21284  
P. O. Box 9733

GVC Address:

Please note



**Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Inc.  
2009 Board of Directors**

Charlie Conklin / President  
William McAvoy / Vice President

Ed Stuebing / Treasurer  
John Miller / Secretary

Roger Birkel  
Ric Bryant  
Cornelius Carmody

Dottie Foos  
Jerry Maizlish  
Pat Novak

Marian Perry Tamburrino  
Jen Powers

**Staff:**

Ann Jones / Land Preservation  
Joe Longobardi / Webmaster  
Peggy Perry / Program Director of Education and Restoration  
Karen Stupski / Development Director

*GVC is seeking individuals who would be interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors. Individuals who are dedicated to the protection and restoration of the lands within the Gunpowder Watershed and bring skills to this mission should contact Mac McAvoy, Chair of the Governance Committee, at 410-307-6627*