

Maryland Forestry Boards Summit

June 10-12, 2024

WELCOME



OUR THEMES

- OUTREACH

- DIVERSITY

- EDUCATION

Background

- Maryland's Forest Conservancy District Boards were created in 1943 to be distinctly and uniquely qualified to promote forest stewardship and restoration planning on privately owned forestlands in Maryland. Forest stewardship actions including tree planting and invasive species removal are critical to meet the state's water quality, habitat and climate change goals.

Why we have forestry Boards

The land conservation-related role played by Maryland's forestry boards is made clear in Section 5-602 of the Natural Resources Article:

“It is the policy of the State to encourage, assist, and guide private ownership in the management and fullest economic development of privately-owned forest lands. Where the public interests cannot be served and adequately protected under private ownership, it is the policy of the State to acquire control of, and title to these lands as rapidly as the financial resources of the State permit.” Section 5-601-2 of the Natural Resources Article

(Maryland Annotated Code), 1943

Duties of FORESTRY BOARDS

Natural Resources Article and speak to the creation of and duties attendant to Maryland's Forest Conservancy District Boards (Forestry Boards) – one for each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Section 5-606 of the Natural Resources Article requires the Boards to:

- Promote private forestry by assisting landowners in forest management, planting trees, conservation and development of tree crops, and protection of forests from fires, insects, and diseases;
- Make available to landowners the services of a forester and advise them with regard to their forest and tree crop problems;
- Assist the county assessors in their appraisal of forest lands for tax purposes;
- Disseminate forest conservation information and collect data concerning forest conservation problems of the State;
- Secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and any of its agencies and State agencies in conservation of forest resources of the State;
- Assist private owners of forest land by advice as to the construction of flood control measures, seeding and planting of waste slopes, abandoned or eroded lands, and development of wildlife by planting food or cover producing trees, bushes and shrubs;
- Receive and pass on proposed work plans for cutting forest lands;

Times change

With over 70% of Maryland's 2.4 million acres of forestland privately owned, it is the private sector that will determine the fate of the Bay's watershed forests. The average forested acreage parcel size in Maryland today is small –testimony to the continued fragmentation and parcelization of our remaining forested lands. In addition, only about a quarter of forest landowners have adopted a Forest Stewardship or Forest Conservation Plan because many of these landowners have never heard these terms nor been introduced to benefits of Forest Stewardship planning.

Local Impact

Maryland's Forestry Boards have close ties and long-standing working relationships with their respective local governing bodies. In many jurisdictions they are consulted on local development plans impacting forest conservation and mitigation. Indeed, **every land use master plan** speaks about the importance of retaining the green, open space landscape by conserving agricultural and forestlands and provides a brief summary into the forestland retention efforts they have pursued. The Forestry Boards are required and able to speak plainly to their neighbors about the importance of sustainable forestry in a local watershed; **stewardship planning** – will convert this rhetoric into implementation. No better land use tool exists than a forest stewardship planning and there is no better land use – from a qualitative watershed standpoint for air, water, habit quality and green house gas reduction– than retained forests.

Emerging priorities

- NO NET LOSS
- Plant more trees
- Reduce climate impact
- Respond to disparate impact
- Prioritize environmental justice
- Ecological services management *

Ecological Services Strategy

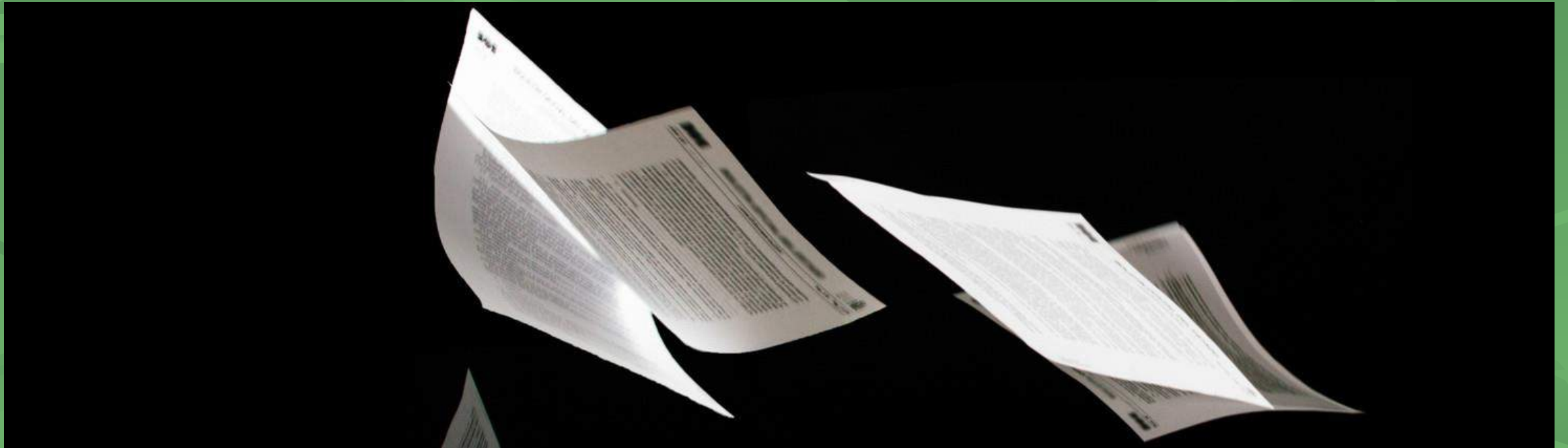
An Ecological Services Strategy is emerging around which success will be based on the forestry's ability to utilize the best available resource-based practices. Increased forest protection(FCA) and more aggressive afforestation are the current primary Maryland state goals supporting "No net loss" as an encompassing phrase. This affirms keeping forests as forests to help Bay watershed protection and restoration, strengthen climate-carbon benefits, and maintain diverse wildlife habitats while ensuring the traditional forest industry can continue to persist rather than shrink as urbanization expands.

For many the new defining issue

Local governments face many challenges and conflicting priorities-tax rates, transportation, strong economic growth, good education choices. However, there is one issue that will ultimately define this generation of local leadership That issue is climate change or global warming.



ACTION will be **REQUIRED**
broad forest policy must refined and
translated into local action



Forestry Boards can



“PEOPLE MAY
DOUBT
WHAT YOU SAY,
BUT THEY WILL
believe
WHAT YOU DO”
~LEWIS CASS

A white rectangular graphic with a thin black border. It contains a quote in various colors and fonts. The opening and closing quotation marks are large and red. "PEOPLE MAY" is in red, "DOUBT" is in a larger, bold red font, "WHAT YOU SAY," and "BUT THEY WILL" are in a grey, sans-serif font. "believe" is written in a large, flowing, golden-brown cursive script. "WHAT YOU DO" is in a brown, sans-serif font, followed by a large red closing quotation mark. At the bottom, the attribution "~LEWIS CASS" is in a small, grey, sans-serif font.

However, from my perspective

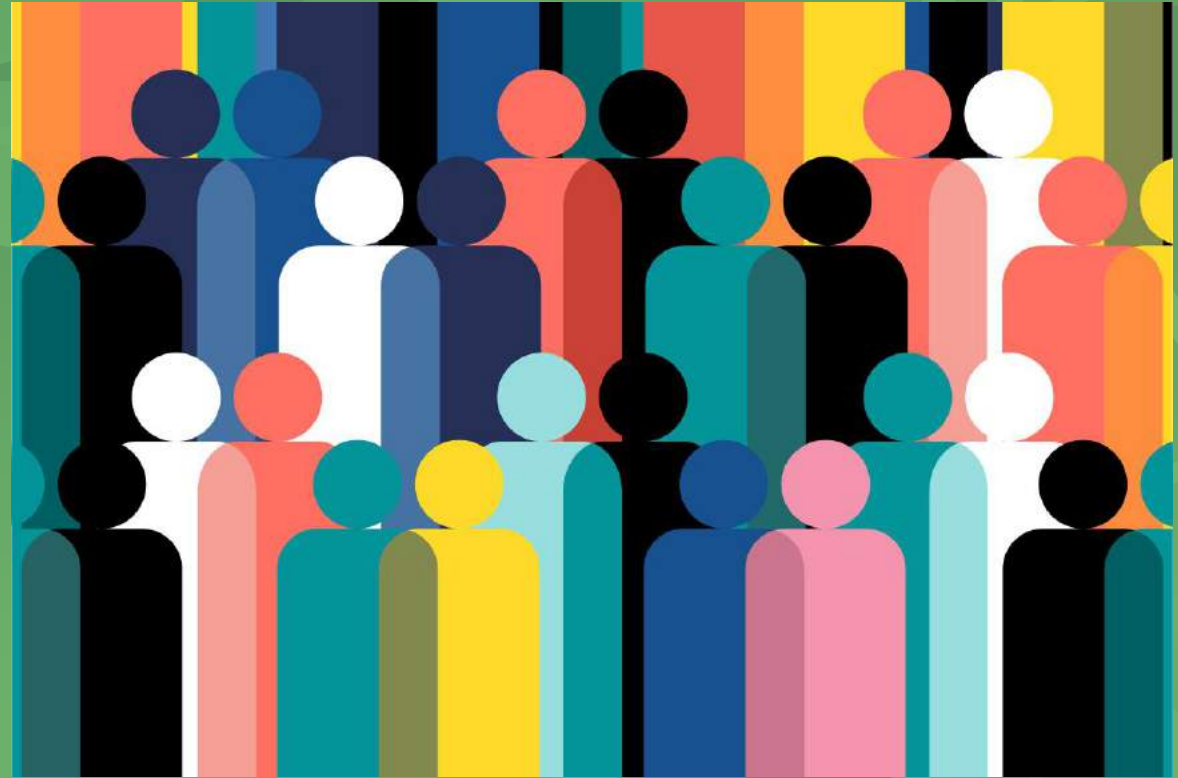
Maryland's volunteer Forestry Boards have historically not been well supported through use of new technologies, resources and training. This Summit is intended to signal a renewed commitment to build the capacity for the Boards so that they can help support, strengthen and advance the state's goals in rural economic growth, forest preservation and natural resource stewardship.



Local LEADERSHIP

leadership is not a position or a title,
it is action and example.

Number of current forestry
board members 151





DIVERSITY

The changing demographics of landowners and
the need to reflect that in Forestry Board
membership

Legacy of Engagement



Landowner Engagement

Healthy water -
Healthy forest

438 clients

1450 acres planted

Nearly **500,000** trees
planted since
beginning



Education

2014 -2024

Natural Resources

Careers Camp

Students 375

\$550,000. in support

Mel Fellowships--- 21 Fellows

\$490,000 in support

30 scholarships

\$28,000.

In support

BIG Trees Program

- Over the last 10-years, volunteers measured or re-measured 2,943 trees.
- Currently, there are 3,310 in the database which does include trees measured but are no longer alive and inactive trees
- Total number of trees listed on the new website and are alive is 2,800.

Maryland Forestry Foundation Trivia

Forestry Facts: How much do you know?



**Thank you for the opportunity
to share your work with you!**



Questions?

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Urban Forestry Careers Camp

- 2024 first year Pilot
- Transition planning winter 24
- 2025 and 26 expand program to two weeks
- local government engagement

Foundation Board Members



What lies ahead?



- Book governing green
- Bridges
- Forest education act implementation
 - New business model
- New fellows
- UFCC transition and expansion
- T10
- Stewardship Act proposal

Summit follow-up

- Planning and reflection
- Additional training



Policy, **Transition** and Projects

- Book governing green
- Bridges
- Forest education act implementation

New business model

- New fellows
- UFCC transition and expansion
- T10
- Stewardship Act proposal

THANKS FOR ATTENDING

Thank You!

