

INNOVATIONS IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

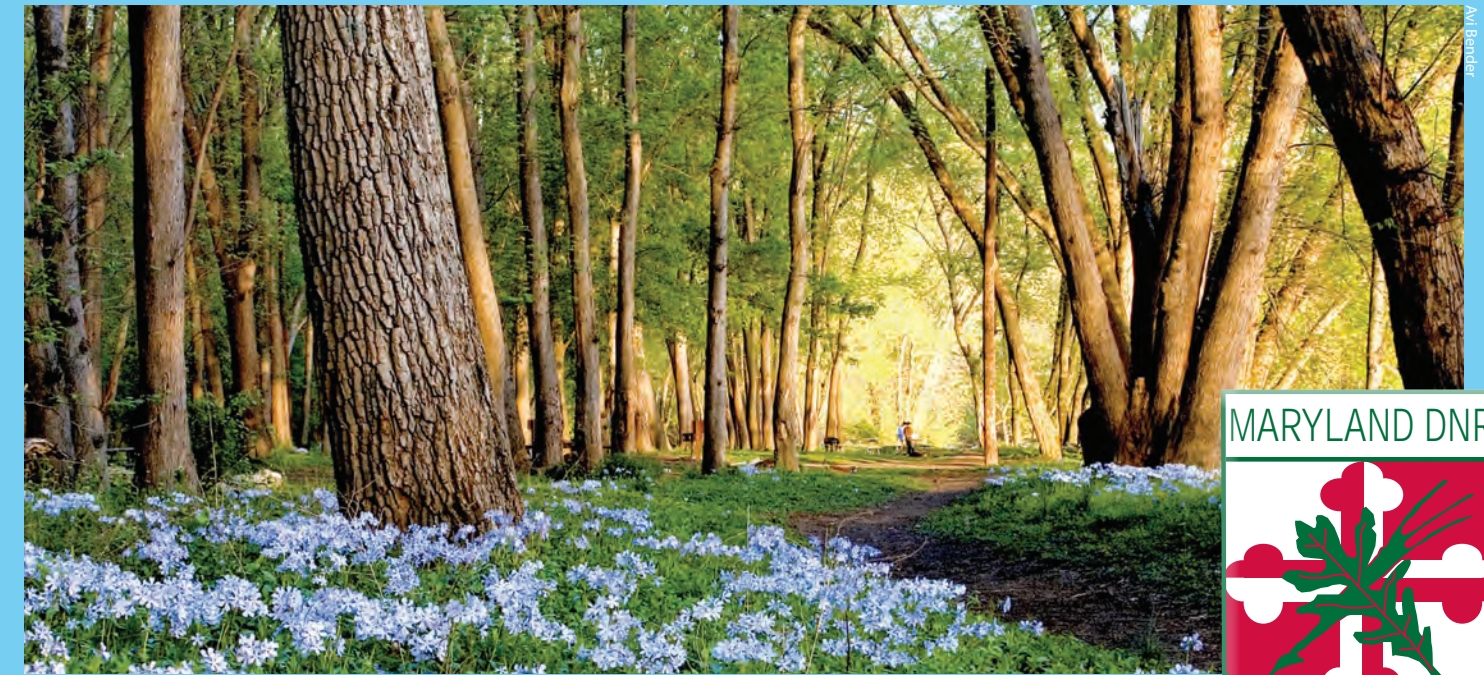
It is no secret that trees are good for their surroundings. People, air, water, land... we all reap from what trees sow. From 2009 to 2013, trees in Maryland have been sowing **a lot** — thanks to Governor Martin O'Malley, the Maryland Forest Service, citizens and volunteers throughout the State who have helped plant trees and protect our forests and the benefits they provide.

The past four years have been monumental — from plantings and legislation to tax breaks and awards, forests saw particularly good investments and collective successes.

"I am always amazed at what is accomplished in a year's time by a relatively small group of highly dedicated natural resource professionals," says State Forester Steve Koehn. "We worked together to accomplish all sorts of tasks that ran the gamut, from community tree plantings to wildland fire emergency response."

By Christine Runion

Kent Carlson



Trees protect air and water quality, reduce energy costs, increase property values and beautify neighborhoods and highways.



According to plan

Maryland has a long-term approach to achieving desired conditions in the State's woodlands, which is updated every five years. The Forest Service created an annual work plan to restore and sustain forest landscapes, ensure healthy and resilient forests, provide clean and abundant water, create jobs and sustainable communities, and make landscapes more resilient to climate change.

Keeping our tree cover

To ensure progress endures this year Governor O'Malley signed first-of-its-kind legislation, a statewide no-net-loss policy for forests. This means the State has pledged to maintain or surpass its current tree canopy, which stands at 40 percent. The Forest Preservation Act of 2013 also establishes new and expanded incentives to help landowners and local governments meet the canopy goal.

Crucial in the protection of our rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay, this legislation encourages smart growth by exempting redevelopment projects that are on an impervious surface from being eligible for incentives and increases penalties for offenders who maliciously start wildfires. It also requires a statewide forest resource inventory be conducted every five years to ensure local governments have the necessary tools to adequately protect tree cover.

Property owners have previously benefited from a tax credit for forestry expenses. The new legislation expands eligible acreage from 10-500 acres to 3-1,000 acres, encouraging more Marylanders to convert residential space to trees and increase, retain and manage forest cover.

A pioneer in forestry

Maryland is the first state in the nation to achieve dual certification under the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which protects the forest product industry and thousands of important jobs by providing certified *green* products to businesses, publicly validating the great work of State Foresters and creating rural revenue.



Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and staff join Earth Day planting efforts at the United Church of Christ.

Marylanders plant trees

As part of Governor O'Malley's *Smart, Green & Growing* initiative, citizens exceeded the statewide *Marylanders Plant Trees* goal of planting and registering 100,000 trees by 2013. The program is still going strong — 105,108 registered trees at time of publication — and continues to offer coupons, tips, gifts and more. Citizens can not only register trees online — they can calculate environmental impact through interactive maps and charts.

In 2011, the State also met its three-year goal of planting 1 million trees on public lands through the *Forest Brigade* — an inmate work program created through a partnership among DNR, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service, and the State Highway Administration.

Visionaries

In April 2012, the Arbor Day Foundation presented Governor O'Malley with its inaugural *Vision Award*. The new honor, which will be awarded only as merited, was created to recognize individuals who inspire and advance extraordinary on-the-ground actions to achieve the full benefits of trees and forests. Governor O'Malley was honored for his unparalleled commitment to



The *Forest Brigade* planted its millionth tree in 2011.

programs and practices that promote tree planting and sustainable forestry.

In recognition of Maryland Forester Steve Koehn's continuing efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay, the Arbor Foundation awarded him with the 2010 *Champion of Trees Award*.

These honors, certifications and innovative laws confirm Maryland's status as a leader in forest conservation.

However, it is the people on the ground — citizens and foresters working in tandem — that are responsible for expanding and protecting our forestland and urban tree canopy, thereby improving our air, our water, and our quality of life. ■

trees.maryland.gov

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A youngster pitches in at Patapsco Valley State Park.



Volunteers plant trees to serve their community.

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to enter DNR's 2013
PHOTO CONTEST

6 first and second place winners will be featured in the
2014 Maryland Natural Resource Calendar

1 GRAND PRIZE WINNER
will win \$500, a 2014 Park Passport and more!

Rules, entry forms and prizes are available at dnr.maryland.gov/photocontest

