

# Lower Shore Land Connections

A publication of the Lower Shore Land Trust

Connecting Land & People

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*Spring 2024*

*Our Mission: Lower Shore Land Trust protects and restores natural resources, wildlife habitat and working lands to support and connect healthy and vibrant communities.*



*Photo by:  
Frode Jacobsen*



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Lower Shore Land Trust  
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 Snow Hill, MD 21863  
[www.lowershorelandtrust.org](http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org)

**Director's Notes**



Let me begin by expressing my gratitude. If you're receiving this publication, it's because you are an integral part of the Lower Shore Land Trust community, united by our shared commitment to protecting and restoring our natural and agricultural landscapes here on the Lower Shore. Moreover, it signifies your participation in furthering this cause, whether through purchasing and planting native plants, making generous financial contributions, conserving land through easements, or standing shoulder to shoulder with us as a dedicated volunteer.

As the newly appointed Executive Director of the Lower Shore Land Trust, I am profoundly thankful for each and every one of you.

We have all journeyed along different paths to arrive at this juncture. For me, it's been a journey rooted in my upbringing on the Eastern Shore—days spent paddling the tranquil waters of the Pocomoke and other local waterways, chasing combines in corn fields, and countless hours riding waves at Assateague Island. My deep-seated affection for this region led me to pursue a master's degree in history from Salisbury University, with a particular focus on the environmental history of the Lower Shore. This propelled me into the realm of environmental nonprofits, where I've been privileged to develop educational initiatives, organize water monitoring programs, lead advocacy campaigns, and spearhead programs engaging faith communities in environmental stewardship across the Bay region.

Yet, my heart has always found its true home here on the Lower Shore, and I can scarcely envision a more fulfilling role than leading the Lower Shore Land Trust and collaborating with all of you to advance our collective mission.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge Kate Patton for her unwavering leadership of LSLT over the past 18 years as Executive Director. She has forged an enduring legacy and leaves behind a robust foundation, for which we are deeply indebted.

I eagerly anticipate embarking on this journey alongside each of you, nurturing that legacy while expanding our network of supporters.

I'm looking forward to where this path will lead.

With sincere appreciation, *Matt Heim*

- @LowerShoreLandTrust
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THE LOWER SHORE  
LAND TRUST'S  
NATIVE  
PLANT SALE

IS NOW  
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with  
new native  
plants, trees  
and shrubs!



OR VISIT:

[www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org](http://www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org)


Pickup  
May 3rd & 4th!



This self-guided tour  
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friendly gardens across  
Maryland's Lower  
Eastern Shore.

Visit beautiful gardens  
landscaped with native  
plants, watch artists  
painting 'en plein air,' and  
gain inspiration for your  
own gardening projects!

- BECOME A SPONSOR
- BUY TICKETS



Pollinator  
Garden Tour



June 21 & 22, 2024

"Fireworks" by Jill Glassman

# Celebrating Our Reaccreditation

Did you know the Lower Shore Land Trust goes through a rigorous process to ensure we are operating at the highest possible conservation standards? The Land Trust Accreditation, the national accrediting body for land trusts, has renewed our accredited status! We are proud to work with the Lower Shore to protect the places we love. There are over 450 accredited land trusts across the country, and we are proud to be part of this community.

Renewing our accreditation shows ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation. Our strength means special places will be protected forever, making the Lower Shore an even greater place for now and in the future. The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction that stands for excellence, trust and permanence. Accredited land trusts inspire confidence and respect among their peers and in their communities. Lower Shore Land Trust is one of 1,281 land trusts across the United States according to the Land Trust Alliance's most recent National Land Trust Census. A complete list of accredited land trusts and more information about the process and benefits can be found at:

[www.LandTrustAccreditation.org](http://www.LandTrustAccreditation.org)



**A Mark of Distinction**

The accreditation seal **AFFIRMS** national quality standards are met.



- ✓ SOUND FINANCES
- ✓ ETHICAL CONDUCT
- ✓ RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE
- ✓ LASTING STEWARDSHIP

www.landtrustaccreditation.org

## Board Member Farewell: Thank you Tracy Causey-Jeffery

**Tracy Causey-Jeffery served on our board of directors and was chair of our Development Committee.**

Tracy earned the distinction of the Golden Clipboard award as our Top Land Steward for 2023 as well as for multiple successful Flannel Formal events, even in the difficult COVID era. She tirelessly dedicated her time and expertise with genuine passion for our mission and a willingness to go above and beyond.

While we are saddened to see her leave the board, we are also excited for new opportunities beginning in her life. We are in deep gratitude for her commitment to the Lower Shore Land Trust, which has significantly contributed to our success, and we thank her for her service.



**The calendar tells me that we made it through to the other side... that spring has arrived.** So says the calendar, anyway. Do I like winter? No, not really, but I do enjoy the idea of hot chocolate, warm fires, and snow, lots of snow. The winter “hardships” make spring’s springing more special, a well-deserved sweet dessert after a bland dinner. This year, however, I found winter to be more chimera than reality. It just never seemed to happen, remaining in the periphery, never coming fully into focus.

**Our bluebirds never left.** Neither did our robins. Then, our crocus started blooming on January 10th! Usually, the birds and plants tell me where we are with the seasons, but not this year. I guess sleepy Phil was right. Spring came early this year, really early, but, once we get passed March’s temperature gymnastics, I am hopeful for a beautiful April. It appears, this year anyway, that March showers will bring April flowers.

**Am I a bit confused?** Yup, and if I am confused, what about the birds, bugs, and plants? It all depends. Many plants break dormancy due to photoperiod, or the length of sunlight during a day, and many birds migrate or begin nesting based on similar cues, so there may be little interruption to their lives. However, the organisms that take direction from temperatures to come out of winter hibernation may well be just as confused as I am.

**Can we help?** I think so. I have attempted to make some changes in the way I manage my yard to be as accommodating as I can be when the storms of spring come early. The first step is to make sure *not* to clean my flower beds until as late as possible. This ensures the availability of cover and food during periods of rough weather. The next thing I do is make sure that my bird houses are cleaned out and ready for use as early as possible. I now clean them out in the fall and check a few times during the winter to make sure they remain so. My bluebirds were inspecting the boxes by mid-February this year, and I found the first nearly complete nest on March 13th! I also attempt to provide high protein/fat foods like mealworms, suet, and peanuts to supplement the slim pickings available in the yard by late winter. Coupled with a yard full of native plants, these extra food items and management changes can help provide a more stable environment in a world of significant change.

*Happy spring!*



*Early-blooming crocuses*



Photos by Jared Parks



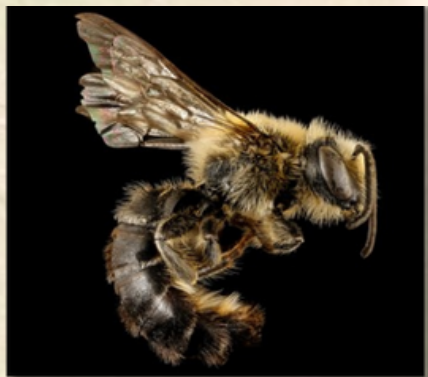
*Habitat-friendly winter flower beds*



*Bluebird box*

## Early Blooming Suggestions: *Heuchera Americana* & *Aquilegia Canadensis*

Delicate spring blooms bring balance to the heavy hitters of bright sunny perennial beds. If shady garden areas need renovation, tuck in a fresh batch of beneficial natives.

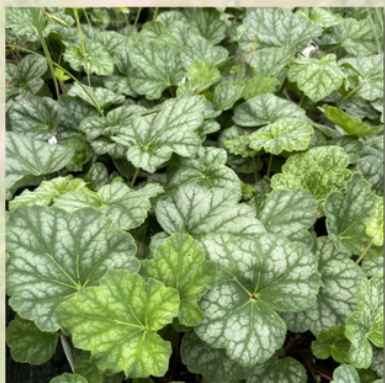


*Colletes aestivalis*

*Heuchera Americana* aka **Coral Bells** or **Alumroot** provides nectar to many pollinators including the specialized bee known as *Colletes aestivalis*.

- There's a stenciled quality to the mounding leaves, showing off dainty stems of bell-shaped flowers.
- This low growing perennial is best planted in clusters for year-round interest, touting colorful muted marbled green, silver or bronze foliage.
- Coral bells tolerate dry, poor soil once established. Avoid extreme sun exposure.

*Heuchera Americana*



Eastern Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*' early spring blooms open just in time for ruby-throated hummingbirds returning from winter migration in Mexico.



- The dainty drooping bell-like flower is a welcome source of early nectar for bees and butterflies and will self-seed if slightly acidic moist soil is available.
- Don't fret when leaves are nibbled mid-summer; this means the host plant is doing its job.
- Columbine prefers ½ day sun and some relief from the hot summer afternoon scald.
- This native is host plant for the Columbine Duskywing, *Erynnis lucilius* which is a small, leaf mining skipper.

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PLANTS  
AND  
MORE [at]** **NATIVE  
PLANT  
SALE**

[WWW.LOWERSHORELANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.LOWERSHORELANDTRUST.ORG)



Columbine Duskywing, *Erynnis lucilius*

# Stewardship Corner: Volunteer Spotlight on Laurie Lawton-Smith

Laurie Lawton-Smith has been volunteering with Lower Shore Land Trust since 2021. Since then, she has been highly involved with the stewardship program at LSLT, helping to monitor numerous properties in the last few years. Laurie's work is varied, including GIS work, aerial monitoring, filing paperwork, and cleaning up files.

She was LSLT's 2022 "Golden Clipboard" Stewardship Award winner and the recipient of the 2023 LSLT Volunteer of the Year award.



Laurie Lawton-Smith receiving LSLT Volunteer of the Year Award at the Flannel Formal in 2023

**WANT TO  
BE A LAND  
STEWARD?**

**EMAIL:  
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*I love to be outside! Some of my requirements for outside enjoyment include fresh air, wind, open land or water, trees, birds, wildlife, vegetation, marsh, woodlands, even "some" rain. Being a Lower Shore Land Trust land steward provides me with the opportunity to experience these requirements. Sometimes, the requirements are experienced individually, but more times than not, they are layered. I have found myself, along with other land stewards, crossing over an agricultural field, muddy or dry, to a forested area, or to a water boundary. Crossing ditches, or trying to go through woodland briars or swamps provides me with another opportunity to see what the land has to say. Walking and observing the easement areas as a land steward reassures me that our land, waterways and wildlife are protected from development or other harm.*

*An additional bonus for me is meeting the landowners who are passionate about their land and the need to preserve it as conservation land. They are extraordinary in their love of the land and what it represents. Whether it is farmland, forested, hunting grounds or marsh, the landowner has provided land that will be preserved and remain unchanged, except for what happens naturally.*

*I also assist with the aerial monitoring of the easements using LENS, a software program. Using LENS allows me to view the easements from a birds eye view since it uses satellite imagery. I know, this is not an outside activity! But it is an important process for the land steward. By using the LENS program, I am able to compare prior years imagery against current imagery to observe any changes, if any, to the deeded easements. The imagery allows me to see the boundaries of forested land from agriculture land, water boundaries, hunting stands, trails, residential dwellings and farm buildings. It also allows me to see things that may be in violation of an easement which require the land stewards to go into the field, observe the land and protect it, if necessary.*

## Ways to Support Lower Shore Land Trust

There are several ways that you can make a huge impact - FOREVER!

- **Financial/Monetary Donation:** In addition to accepting cash donations, LSLT accepts gifts of Stock, Mutual Funds, IRA Charitable Rollovers, Donor Advised Funds, and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).
- **Planned Giving:** Consider naming LSLT as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or include us in your Will.
- **Real Estate:** LSLT accepts gifts of land - we are always looking for conservation properties. We also accept donations of cars, boats, buildings and other assets that can be sold and used to further LSLT's mission.

We encourage you to contact your financial advisor, estate attorney, or a tax consultant to learn how these transactions can benefit you and support the causes that matter to you. If you would like to learn more about how you can make a lasting impact, contact Kate Patton, Director Emeritus at 443-234-5587 or [kpatton@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:kpatton@lowershorelandtrust.org).

*Land Connections*  
 Lower Shore Land Trust  
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 Snow Hill, MD 21863



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# Upcoming Events...

**NATIVE PLANT SALE**



Pickup  
 May 3rd  
 & 4th!



SCAN ME

\*Pre-orders required. Sale closes after April 26th!

**CALENDAR**

**PRE-ORDER NOW!** **NATIVE PLANT SALE**  
 PICKUP MAY 3&4

**APRIL 20** **EARTH DAY [AT]**  
**SALISBURY ZOO**

**APRIL 27** **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**  
 9:30-11AM

**JUNE 21&22** **POLLINATOR GARDEN TOUR**  
 GET TICKETS NOW

**NOV 9** **FLANNEL FORMAL**  
 SAVE THE DATE!

*"Fireworks" by Jill Glassman*



**Pollinator Garden Tour**

June 21 & 22, 2024

VISIT:  
[www.lowershorelandtrust.org](http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org)



Tour beautiful, private native gardens!  
 Tickets and sponsorships available now!

**Saturday April 20th**



Earth Day @ The Zoo! Check out events at the Salisbury Zoo and visit our booth!

**Flannel Formal**

**November 9th!**



**Celebrate Trails Day**

powered by rails to trails conservancy

**Saturday, April 27**  
 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The community is invited to get outside to explore Snow Hill & the Summerfields Trail.

Learn more at  
[www.visitmarylandsc coast.org](http://www.visitmarylandsc coast.org)



Celebrate National Trails Day with us and see the new trail in Snow Hill!

Cover photo: Wallpaper Flare. ©