



## MET TRUSTEE BIOS

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**Major Gary S. Burnett (CHAIR)** has 29 years of experience with the Maryland State Park Service holding positions at various operational levels ranging from park ranger major to ranger trustee. Major Burnett has recently accepted a position as the North Region Operations Manager for the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission Montgomery Parks. Previously, Major Burnett held positions as chief of mission support and sustainability as well as director of support services for the Maryland State Park Service. Major Burnett began his career as a park ranger at Gunpowder Falls State Park in Harford County. He serves on the boards of the Snow Hill Chamber of Commerce, DNR Black Officers Association, Northeast Chamber of Commerce, Cecil County Tourism Board, Howard County Environmental Alliance, and is the founder and president of the Friends of Carrie Murray Nature Center. Major Burnett holds a B.S. in Conservation and Resource Development from the University of Maryland.

### **Gregory Bowen (VICE-CHAIR) - ACIP**

Greg is Executive Director of the American Chestnut Land Trust, which currently owns, manages, or holds an easement on 3,600 acres in Calvert County. Prior to that he worked for the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning for 32 years, the last six as its Director. During that time, he oversaw the county land preservation program, which featured the first transferable development rights program in Maryland, along with two county purchase-of-development rights programs and three state easement programs. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

**Mark L. Hoffman (TREASURER)** currently serves as the Maryland Director for the Chesapeake Bay Commission. The Commission, comprised primarily of State legislators, serves to develop, and advance legislative action in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. A life-long Maryland resident, his interests in the environment and conservation were nurtured by becoming interested in birds and birding at an early age, a passion he still pursues today. After graduating from Cornell University (B.A., Biology) and the University of Florida (M.S., Wildlife Ecology), Mark began a 31-year career with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Ultimately advancing to the position of Assistant Secretary for Mission Support, he oversaw all the finance and administration functions for the \$300 million agency. And given his science background, he was always able to bring that expertise to bear on administrative and budget concerns. Mark has extensive engagement with the Maryland General Assembly on fiscal and policy issues.

**Megan D’Arcy (SECRETARY)** has focused her life’s work on land conservation, resource stewardship, and an understanding that the relationships between people and their environment can influence culture and positively shape the future. She has spent the last 15 years of her career in the land trust community with an intense focus on working with landowners to navigate complexities associated with conservation easement stewardship and the preservation of agricultural land. In 2009, Megan moved to the beautiful Eastern Shore of Maryland for a position with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, her accomplishments include building a robust land protection and easement stewardship program with a portfolio consisting of 299 properties on 58,000 acres of land throughout a six-county region. Accomplishments include managing relationships with stakeholders, creating a volunteer land steward monitoring program, and the development and implementation of a practical farmer friendly best management practices initiative for rural easement landowners.

Most recently, Ms. D’Arcy accepted a position with the Rural Maryland Council, an independent state agency located within the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The mission of the Council is to improve the quality of life of people living in rural Maryland. Megan is excited for this new opportunity as it allows her to explore solutions for those human challenges found in rural areas and how they can be improved. Megan’s collegiate background includes a Bachelor of Arts in cultural anthropology from Kutztown University and a master’s degree in resource management from The University of Pennsylvania. Megan is the recipient of the 2016 Aileen Hughes Award for her outstanding work in the conservation field and is a Shore Leadership graduate. She enjoys life to the fullest living in Easton with her husband Dan and two wonderful children, Wyatt and Ben.

**Toby Lloyd** is the President of Turnrow, LLC, a multi-disciplinary agricultural consulting company focusing on conservation, communications, and real estate. Prior to founding Turnrow, Toby worked for The United States Department of Agriculture for thirteen years. At the USDA, he held various positions at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in their National Office for the Conservation and Environmental Programs Division. Toby later served as the Chief of Farm Programs for FSA in Maryland, overseeing the delivery of the Agency’s Farm Bill Programs as well as working on Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. In addition to his extensive policy experience, Toby has worked for various farming operations ranging in size from 60-acre hay farms to 5,000-acre grain operations. Toby enjoys spending time on his family’s farm in Pennsylvania and lives with his wife Lisa in Bethesda Maryland.

**Megan Benjamin** is a Planner in Baltimore County. She graduated from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and earned a Master’s degree in Geography and Environmental Planning from Towson University. She began her career as an Americorps Volunteer through the Maine Conservation Corps working with a land trust/watershed organization in the mid-coast area of Maine. She has worked for several environmental non-profits in program management and administration. While in graduate school, Megan interned at the Critical Area Commission and served as Volunteer Coordinator at Maryland Environmental Trust (MET). She was later hired as the Western Region Planner at MET, a role she served at for 12 years with the addition of the Central Region during that time. Megan is now with Baltimore County in the Department of Planning as a Planner and Land Preservation Specialist.

**Susanne Richards** is the current Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. Susanne came to MAEF from the Delaware Soybean Board, where she had been executive director for 14 years, and the Maryland Soybean Board, where she was a communications contractor and executive director. During her time with the boards, she co-created and directed the popular My Maryland Farmer’s website and social media campaign; facilitated the establishment of the Atlantic Soybean Council, a regional soybean research organization; and aligned the boards’ programs and budgets with

their strategic plans. Susanne and her parents, John and Ann Richards, and her niece and nephew operate Sheepfield Farm in St. Mary's County, raising cut flowers.

**Lori Lynch** is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland. She examines various issues related to land preservation and land conservation as well as providing advice to farmland program managers and legislative bodies. She has worked with policy managers at the county, state, and federal level on issues such as the compensation, taxation, change in land values due to conservation easements, characteristics of landowners in preservation programs and post- preservation activities on conserved properties. Her PhD was from the University of California, Berkeley and her MS from University of California, Davis.

**Tom Prevas** is a leader in environmental litigation and regulatory compliance with experience in contract, tort, enforcement, and construction litigation involving solid waste, hazardous waste, petroleum, biosolids, wastewater, land contamination and climate change. Tom has also done extensive work in brownfields redevelopment and cleanup under CERCLA, RCRA and state voluntary cleanup and brownfields programs. He has served as environmental counsel to the largest brownfield redevelopment project in Maryland—the redevelopment of the former Bethlehem Steel site- and speaks nationally on effective reuse and development of Brownfields. Tom has expertise in overseeing large and complex projects involving traditional energy, renewable energy, and infrastructure matters; on federal preemption of state environmental laws; and his experience extends to natural gas pipelines and electric transmission as well. Tom has advised clients on NEPA compliance and effective public engagement and has also counseled clients on how to bring a NEPA (or state equivalent) challenge. He is an adjunct law professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in the Environmental Certificate Program and teaches state and local environmental law. He has written on the use and admissibility of expert evidence, particularly in the environmental, land use and property valuation contexts, and counsels' clients on OFAC/trade sanctions compliance.

**Diana Edensword Conway** is a 30-year resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. She grew up in a Foreign Service family posted to Martinique, Haiti, Liberia, Jordan and France. She holds a BA in public policy from Brown University, and a JD from the University of Virginia.

Her community service includes:

- Co-founder, Montgomery Countryside Alliance
- Co-founder, C&O Canal Trust
- President, Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc.
- Member of several County-appointed boards—Sustainability Working Group, Zoning Advisory Panel, County Executive Transition Team, Master Plan Advisory Group, Citizens Advisory Board for western Montgomery County; and
- Civic activist on numerous water quality and environmental protection issues.

She and her husband Bill have three grown children and live in Potomac with three beehives, two mutts and a 20-lb cat. Diana is fluent in French, and decent in Spanish.

**Nathan Volke** is a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County. Professionally, he works as an attorney and practices family law in Annapolis, MD. Since 2018, he has served on the Anne Arundel County Council representing District 3. He resides in Pasadena with his wife and two children.

### **Keith Colston**

E. Keith Colston is Tuscarora and an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe. Mr. Colston serves as the Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA), within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). The MCIA initiates and supports a wide range of activities that promote the welfare of Maryland's Indian people and furthers the understanding of American Indian history and culture. The MCIA provides a forum for the concerns of Maryland's American Indian communities and serves as a vital liaison between these communities and the local, state, and federal entities. At GOCI, Mr. Colston also serves as the Director of Ethnic Commissions. Working with the seven ethnic commissions, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) and the MD250 Commission, just to name a few of the responsibilities.

### **Craig Highfield**

Craig Highfield is the director of Forest Programs for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The mission is to pursue innovative strategies and collaborations that improve the health of the region's forests, create new forests in places important to water quality and promote the benefits of forests and resource management to private landowners, decisionmakers, and the general population of the six-state bay watershed. Craig leads a team that is located in the Alliance's state offices in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. He holds a master's degree in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University and is an ISA Certified Arborist.

### **Julia King, Ph.D.**

Julia A. King is a Professor of Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Doctor King has 30 years' experience studying, writing, and teaching historical archaeology and Chesapeake history and culture. She has held fellowships with Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks, the Virginia Historical Society, and Winterthur Museum and has received six major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. From 2003 until 2011, King served as an Expert Member on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a federal agency that advises the president and Congress on matters of national historic preservation policy. Her book, *Archaeology, Narrative, and the Politics of the Past: The View from Southern Maryland*, received a Book Award from the American Association of State and Local History in 2013. In 2018, the Society for Historical Archaeology presented King with the J.C. Harrington Award in recognition of her scholarly contributions to the discipline. King is one of the youngest members to have received the Harrington. She has also received awards from the Register for Professional Archaeologists and the Archaeological Society of Virginia. Her current research focus includes Indigenous history and colonialism in the Chesapeake region.

### **Ex-Officio Trustees**

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